

VOLUME LXV. NUMBER 19670

THURSDAY, JULY 10, 1997 • TAMUZ 5, 5757 • 5 RABIA AWWAL 1418

NIS 4.50 (Eilat NIS 3.80)

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State Comptroller won't probe Barak over Tze'elim-2

By BATSHEVA TSUR and LIAT COLLINS

State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat yesterday announced that she has decided not to look into accusations of controversial behavior by then-chief of staff Ehud Barak during the 1992 Tze'elim-2 training accident.

Her announcement evoked conflicting reactions from the military and political establishments.

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi sugested that Barak, who is now Labor Party leader, call on the government to establish a commission of inquiry "to decide whose version is right." He was speaking after Ben-Porat told the

she would not look into the accusations since she did not have the legal tools with which to check them.

Barak: I was vindicated, Page 3

Ben-Porat also pointed out that the accusations, voiced by parents of the wounded who are represented by the Movement for Quality Government, came only two and a half years after the

Knesset's State Control Committee that sions given after 2-1/2 years. Shortly after the accident, the wounded told the Military Police that the evacuation had been wonderful and quick," Ben-Porat stated. "I do not have the tools [with which to verify the facts]. I am not a court of law."

Aluf (Res.) Yisrael Tal, the prime minister's security adviser, came out strongly against the proposal for a judicial commission. He said the nation has to accept the testimony of its senior generals and that there is no place for further investigation of the Tze'elim-2 accident.

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Shahak, Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine and Maj.-Gen. Uri Saguy were in the field when the tragedy occurred and they unequivocally deny the accusation that then-chief of general staff Barak left the scene of the accident before the wounded were treated and before the evacuation helicopters arrived," Tal said in a rare interview on Israel Radio.

"I think this sort of denial from three senior officers - authentic eyewitness testimony and not a second-hand account - should settle this sort of argument once and for all," Tal said. "This is clear and authentic evidence... and there is no room for further inquiries. If Israeli society does not believe its senior officers, it had better do some soul-search-

The accusations of a "whitewash" surfaced in the Hebrew daily, Yedior

during the accident - in which a missile launched accidentally killed five members of the elite Sayeret Matkal reconnaissance unit and wounded six - Barak failed to attend to the wounded and left the scene before their evacuation. According to one accusation, Barak could have saved the life of one of the men if he had taken him in his helicopter. Others charged that Barak did not have

an encouraging word for the victims. Barak has denied he fled the scene, and said he was dealing with matters relating to his position as chief of staff and therefore did not approach the wounded. He had personally appealed to Ben-Porat to

The cloud of uncertainty concerning the question of Barak's involvement in the Tze'elim-2 disaster will continue to hover over his head. The State comptroller did not respond to Barak's request to clarify the matter, and determined that there is conflicting evidence. The fog concerning Barak has not been removed.

Labor whip Ra'anan Cohen described the State comptroller's decision as "decisively and unambivalently clearing Barak's name," and called on Justice Minister Hanegbi to apologize for his speech two weeks ago claiming Barak had abandoned wounded men.

See BARAK, Page 2



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is joined by Foreign Minister David Levy in toasting (from left) Science Minister Michael Eitan, Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom and Finance Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman, following Knesset approval of their

Angry Sharon cuts short meeting with Netanyahu

Infrastructures National Minister Ariel Sharon stormed out of a meeting with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday after just three minutes and refused to listen to the prime minister's explanation of how Ya'acov Ne'eman, at the last moment, got the finance portfolio Sharon had been promised.

Sharon is furning over the way he was pushed out of the job. At the same time, the "kitchen cabinet" which he had wanted to join was abolished.

On Monday, Sharon cancelled the meeting he had scheduled with Netanyahu, and for the past two days the prime minister's aides have been trying in vain to get hold of him. Finally, a meeting was arranged for noon yesterday. But when Sharon arrived and saw all the television cameras and

22 MKs absent from vote,

prime minister's "business as

nsual" show, and decided he was not taking part in the charade, his aides said. Sharon refused to let Netanyahu explain the Ne'eman appointment and when the prime minister

moved to hand him a political sur-

vey on security and foreign affairs, Sharon left the room. He told waiting journalists he had no complaints against the prime minister, and when asked about their relationship described it as "perfectly correct." The prime minister, when asked if any ten-

Mike Tyson fined \$3 million

microphones, he realized he was meant to play an "extra" in the Sharon, replied, "We'll continue to work together in cooperation and mutual agreement."

The prime minister's bureau described the meeting as "security and politically oriented." No further meeting was scheduled.

Later, in a Channel 2 interview. Netanyahu would not elaborate on his talk with Sharon. "It was a private conversation; I don't want to give details. Sharon makes a special contribution to the government. He contributes his experience and special strategic thinking. I hope we can continue to

benefit from it." He denied that he had withdrawn the offer of the finance portfolio to Sharon because Foreign Minister David Levy and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai had pressured him to do so. He insisted he had "never intended it to be Sharon's" and had only offered the Treasury

top post to Sharon when Ne'eman refused it. When Ne'eman then changed his mind the night before the appointment was to be announced, Netanyahu said he felt a moral obligation to give him the

Likud sources feel Sharon may now spearhead the opposition to Netanyahu within the government. Netanyahu also told Channel 2 that he had made no promises to Gesher on social issues that would cost \$2 billion.

"The budgets you are talking about never existed. This is nonsense. There is no obligation to Gesher," he said.

Mordechai, Shaath meet

Agreement reached on Gaza airport, seaport

Israeli and Palestinian officials. with US and Egyptian officials looking on, came to a tentative agreement late last night on expediting airport operations at Dahaniya in the Gaza Strip, and on further construction of the

Differences were also resolved regarding the establishment of "safe passage" between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, according to a communique issued by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

Mordechai and Palestinian Authority Planning Minister Nabil Shaath met under an American-



Yitzhak Mordechai

lifted first by the Palestinians and then by the Israelis. The venue was Egyptian

Mohammed Ambassador Bassiouny's Herzliya Pituah residence, with US Ambassador Martin Indyk an active participant. Foreign Minister David Levy conferred with Mordechai shortly before the meeting and briefed him on the current negotiating

strategy and objectives. At the NATO summit in Madrid,



Nabil Sha'ath

tailored cloak of secrecy that was US President Bill Clinton said he was very concerned about the deadlock in the Middle East peace process and was working on new ideas jump-start it.

"It is obvious that we're going to have to see some new specific: actions taken in order to get this thing going again," Clinton told a news conference. "I'm very concerned about what's happening in the peace process."

See MORDECHAL Page 2

Two border policemen injured by bomb near Nablus

A bomb exploded near a Border Police jeep accompanying a busload of yeshiva students from the Od Yosef Chai yeshiva in Joseph's Tomb at the northern exit of Nablus last night. According to initial reports, the bomb exploded at the Beit Dajan junction.

Two border policemen were lightly wounded and treated at the site.

Both the jeep and the bus were heavily damaged. IDF troops were searching the area.

Eli Rosenfeld, director of the Od Yosef Chai yeshiva, said the bomb was lying on the road. "There were 40 yeshiva students in the bus," he

Rosenfeld demanded that the IDF vary the hour when the bus transports the students out of

Joseph's Tomb. "Every night at 10 the bus picks up the students. Anyone can follow the routine and act according-

Also last night, shots were fired towards Beit Hadassah in Hebron, with two bullets going into the building, settlers reported. No one was hurt, but the outraged Hebron Jewish community demanded that the IDF immediately pursue those responsible.

See SHOTS, Page 2

Separate seating buses to run in Bnei Brak and Jerusalem

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Forget about ladies first. The Transport Ministry intends to initiate separate seating on some bus lines in Bnei Brak and Jerusalem, with men getting on at the front door and women enter-

ing through the back. The system was recommended by a special committee appointed by Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy, who adopted the recommendations yesterday. The committee, headed by Director-General Nahum Langenthal, included ministry officials, representatives of the Egged and Dan bus cooperatives, and representatives of the

Transport Ministry spokesman Avner Ovadia said the system would be in place by September. The committee, a ministry statement said, had been appoint-

Although men and women are to sit separately, there is to be no physical division between them, In addition, no passenger is to be forced to enter through the front or back door. In order to facilitate the separate seating, an automatic punch machine is to be installed at the back door of relevant buses, enabling passengers to punch their own tickets.

ed to encourage use of public

transport by the haredim.

According to Ovadia, the system will be introduced on bus

lines 1 and 5 in Bnei Brak within for the Israel Women's Network six weeks and, within three months, on two as-yet undetermined lines that service haredi

neighborhoods in Jerusalem. The plan sparked varying reactions among the non-Orthodox.

Tamar Elor, an anthropologist who has studied haredi women, argued that "it's good that different communities can enjoy different services, and if they [the haredim] wish to have it this way, that's fine. I don't see any harm in it, though I know that a lot of my feminist friends will think it symbolically difficult because women will sit at the

Rachel Benziman, legal adviser

had a very different response.

"I think this decision is illegal and goes against one of the main principles of the State of Israel: equality. I think it is degrading to women, and the fact that they call it voluntary is a trick. These haredi communities will not tolerate women who opt not to participate in the new system. And by turning a blind eye to segregation on the buses, the government is condoning it. We're going to demand that the ministry either stop subsidizing the bus companies or that they end this segregated service."

Jonathan Tepperman contributed to this report.



LAS VEGAS (Reuter) - Mike Evander Holyfield's ears during Tyson, once boxing's most feared fighter, was banned from a bout last month that shocked fans around the world. the sport yesterday and fined \$3

The former heavyweight champion, whose June 28 bid to reclaim his title ended in disgrace, was not present when the five-member Nevada State Athletic Commission voted unanimously to impose the maximum punishment and

and banned for biting incident million for biting opponent revoke his license to box. effectively banning him from boxing in the US.

Tyson, who once dominated the sport, can apply for reinstatement in one year but if his application for a new license is denied he must wait another

year to try again. The revocation could constitute a lifetime ban.

Full report, Page 14

Knesset approves Eitan, Ne'eman to new posts

By LIAT COLLINS

By a vote of 52 to 46, the Knesset yesterday endorsed the appointment of Ya'acov Ne'eman as finance minister and Likud MK Michael Eitan as science minister. The two, clearly emotional, were sworn in yesterday

The appointment of Likud MK Silvan Shalom as deputy Defense Minister was announced by his new boss. Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. It does not require a vote. Shalom and Eitan are to rotate their posts in a year.

Netanyahu presented his appointments in a brief statement, depriving the opposition of a chance to heckle his speech. "I believe the Knesset should welcome the appointment of two experienced and able people who will help the government in its work." he said.

It is the second time Ne'eman has been a member of this government. He was forced to resign as justice minister last year to face charges of obstruction of justice of which he was subsequently acquitted.

Although the announcement of the proposed appointments lasted a matter of minutes, the discussions on them dragged on for nearly three hours along fairly predictable opposition-coalition lines.

The only drama came when Moledet leader Rehavam Ze'evi tried to explain why his party would not support the appointments, blasting the government for, among other things, "accepting 'Adolph' Arafat as a partner and friend and forsaking Eretz Yisrael." Deputy Speaker Nawaf Massalha (Labor), objected to the Arafat-Hitler comparison and when Ze'evi continued, Massalha called him to order three times before demanding he leave the plenum. Ze'evi initially refused to go but was finally persuaded by other MKs to respect the authority of the acting Speaker.

Although he and Moledet MK Benny Elon voted against the appointments, Ze'evi later crashed the Likud reception for Eitan and Shalom to congratulate them.

The roll-call vote on the appointments, which carry the weight of a vote of confidence in the prime minister, was marked more by those absent than those present. A total of 22 MKs were absent, including former ministers Dan Meridor and Binyamin Ze'ev Begin and MK Shaul Amor (Likud), who had been a candidate for the science portfolio. MK David Re'em (Likud) voted in favor despite his earlier criticism of the appointment of Ne'eman instead of National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon

By LIAT COLLINS

and DAVID RUDGE

Defense Minister Yitzhak

Mordechai vesterday again rejected

calls for a unilateral IDF withdraw-

al from Lebanon. Answering sever-

al motions to the agenda in the

Knesset, Mordechai said the IDF is

"We have no desire to be there

apart from pure defense-related rea-

sons which oblige us to be in the

security zone," he said. "But we

have promised ourselves and the

fighters that the government will

time and again examine the possi-

there for security reasons only.



National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon congratulates new Finance Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman immediately after his swearing in.

Speaker's office to toast the new ministers, Netanyahu played on the meanings of the names "Ne'eman" (loyal), "Eitan" (strong) and "Shalom" (peace) saying this is what he hoped he had brought into the

"I think there will be many more challenges but I think the government was noticeably strengthened today," he said. "We can complete the mission we've been entrusted with." He said apart from helping the diplomatic process, the appointments would benefit the "economic and social revolution on which we've embarked." Asked whether Sharon would be a partner in the diplomatic process. Netanyahu replied, "To the extent that he wants to be, he will be a partner because I value his strength and his advice."

Responding to a question. Eitan reaffirmed his opinion that there should be a national unity government though it would probably mean him losing his new ministerial seat. "My commitment to a national unity government did not disappear the moment I entered the government," he said, "I know that if such

bility of changing the situation."

He said that during a tour of the

area this week and meetings with

soldiers there, he had been told a

unilateral pullout would present a

direct threat to border communities.

bloody terror attacks in the North in

the years before the security zone

was established, saying a withdraw-

Mordechai rejected, however, a

proposal by MK Hanan Porat

(NRP) to consider a separate inde-

pendent state in south Lebanon,

al now would be disastrous.

Mordechai also recalled the

At a short ceremony in the a government were established I would have to pay a personal price, but I'm willing to do so and I'll do best to achieve this goal as I think it is very important to the talks on the permanent arrangements with the Palestinians. I believe the Israeli nation will be better represented and will be able to achieve more with a

> national unity government." Eitan said that for over a year he had been working on science-related issues including the computerization of the Knesset and its Internet site (http://www.knesset.gov.il) and a plan for computerization and Internet links in all government offices in the future to facilitate access for the public. Just before his ministerial appoint-

> ment, the Knesset approved the final reading of a bill submitted by Eitan which would reduce the parliamentary immunity of MKs in fields not directly related to their Knesset

Ne'eman, on his way to his first meeting as finance minister, told reporters he was "aware of the big task and the responsibility" facing him. Although he is a former director-general of the Finance Ministry,

Mordechai spoke of a three-

pronged approach: resuming the

talks with Syria; preparing forces

and means to fight terror, and to

seek the help of international pow-

Both Mordechai and Porat eulo-

Porat's daughter Tirza had

planned to marry Milo. In May,

Capt. Eran Shamir, the boyfriend of

another of Porat's daughters, was

Hizbullah officials meanwhile

gized Maj. Nadav Milo, who was

killed in Lebanon this week.

Mordechai rejects calls for Lebanon withdrawal

he said he would have to become updated with the current situation, because the problems have grown

Shalom expressed slight regret at getting only the deputy minister's post, despite the promise of rotation with Eitan after a year. Asked about his possible contribution to the defense ministry, he said his strong financial background would help him in defense budget issues. "Not every health minister is a doctor, not every finance minister an economist, and not everyone in the defense ministry needs to come from a strong military background," he said.

Also in the Knesset yesterday, Meir Shetreet was chosen to replace Eitan as the Likud-Gesher-Tsomet whip. No appointment has been made yet to the position of coalition whip. In the past the two functions were combined, but the coalition chairman position was promised to Gesher by Avigdor Lieberman, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, as part of the govemment appointments. MK David

Magen turned it down yesterday. Yehuda Lankri (Gesher) was appointed a deputy Knesset Speaker.

attacks on Lebanese civilians - in

the right place and at the right time."

again fired at IDF positions inside

the security zone and along Israel's

northern border in the early hours of

yesterday morning. None of the

shells, apparently, fell inside Israeli

a week that Hizbullah gunners have

fired at IDF positions on or very

close to the border. On the previous

occasions, last Thursday morning

and on Sunday night, at least one

Katyusha rocket and one mortar

It was the third time in the space of

The warning came as shells were

is Who take the new intinisters?

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Known as Likelly enforcers
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establishment. Elian's combined
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Since Further Rabins assessment

Born in Tunisia in 1958, Silvan Shalom was first elected to the Knesset in 1992

With degrees in law and eco-nomics. Shalom worked as a journalist and as director-general of the Energy and Infrastructure Ministry before morning to poli-

One of the earliest Likud MKs to back Netanyahu's bid for party leadership. Shalom has been touted as a likely candidate for ience minister since Ze'ev gin's resignation from the post in lanuary.

Shalom is contently leader of

the Likud faction on the Knesset Finance Committee, and in this capacity has acted as

Shalom given responsibility for 7 defense areas

By ARREH O'SULLIVAIN

Newly appointed Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom will be responsible for seven areas, including relations with Jewish settlers and the Home

Front Command. Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai outlined the areas with Shalom during a meeting at

the Knesset. According to Mordechai's office, the deputy defense minister will also be responsible for

the emergency civil defense and

confrontation line settlements. He will also act as a liaison between the ministry and the Knesset, thus relieving Mordechai of the need to reply to parliamentary queries.

Shalom is also to deal with national endeavors through the youth and Nahal department and certain economic issues to be determined by the defense min-

Mordechai hoped that his deputy would be able to help

enhance state security. In an interview published in Ha'aretz, Mordechai said that Shalom would help take some of the load off his shoulders.

"I am a member of the government, the inner cabinet and forum of advisers. I am dealing with local and external politics, the peace process and security. I am in command of the IDF and the military industries. A deputy minister will certainly help, Mordechai was quoted as say-

New Arab alliances intended to spur further redeployment

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Palestinian analysts attribute Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's interest in an alliance of militant states centered on the Syrian-Iranian axis. with Iraq as an active participant, to his concern about possible delays in Israel's next West Bank redeployment, due to be completed by October.

Palestinian leader was advised by Damascus that it would be prudent to be aligned with Syria rather than ostracized by the Arab world for seeking peace with an Israeli government, whose political make-up prevents it from handing over significant segments of the West

His rapprochement with Iran, whose Islamic fundamentalist regime disapproves of the entire peace process, is seen as a means of placating, if not neutralizing, the pro-Iranian Hamas organization, whose adherents constitute a substantial percentage of the Gaza Strip's voters. This tactic, as well as his

effort to lend respectability to

PA Chairman Yasser Arafat (Ariel Jerozolimski)

President Saddam Hussein's regime in Baghdad, is a calculated risk because it runs counter to the "double containment" policy advocated by US Ambassador Martin Indyk, whose diplomatic acumen was recognized by his recent appointment to the key post of Undersecretary of State for Middle Eastern and South Asian Affairs.

The underlying motives for Syria, Iran and Iraq to close - Resentment of Turkey's

close military relationship with

• Disapproval of Turkey's massive penetration into northem Iraq in a bid to crush the separatist Kurdish PKK party, which Ankara regards as a terrorist organization, but whose ier was given sancmary by Syria and some of whose training camps are in Lebanou's Bekaa Valley.

Syria and Iraq share a common grievance against Turkey: the allegedly inadequate release of water from the Euphrates River backed up at the giant Ataturk

Sensing an inevitable showdown with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's government this autumn. Arafat evidently is trying to supplement the substantial sympathy and support that exists for him in Western Europe and the US by getting three of the most important states in the Arab and Islamic worlds to march in step

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MORDECHAI Continued from Page 1

"I'm very concerned about the growing tensions between the Palestinians and the Israelis. Clinton said.

Sources close to the PA leadership said the idea of a Mordechai-Shaath meeting provoked furious debate and angry recriminations before it took

The meeting was aimed at finding "common ground and a way to return negotiations to their correct path," said a spokesman for PA Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Earlier, Levy held separate discussions with both Cabinet

Alex Grass

Secretary Danny Naveh, Israel's defense establishment for their coordinator of the ongoing contacts with Palestinian representatives, and with Netanyahu's personal legal adviser, Yitzhak Molcho, who has been one of Naveh's regular partners in the negotiating sessions with the

Palestinians. The foreign minister's media adviser, Freddy Eytan, said Levy's objective was to "solidify the team" dealing with the

Palestinians. He has also asked the ministry's research unit to formulate concepts and possible trade-offs (such as the Gaza port or Dahaniya airport) in anticipation of the prospective final-status talks with PA delegates. The contents would then be submit-

ted to the cabinet and the

Prof. Menachem Magidor

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

mourns the passing of

SOLOMON (Shlomo

Shprechman) NIVY

one of the first graduates of the University, and among its

long-time, generous friends

Our condolences to the family.

controlled by the South Lebanese vowed that the organization would retaliate for "repeated Zionist

also killed in Lebanon.

consideration. One of Levy's principal concerns. Evian said, is that the government's opening position when the full range of negotiations spelled out in the Oslo Accords is resumed.

The current spate of diplomatic activity involving Israeli and Palestinian personnel was described by him as evidence that the Egyptian mediation effort undertaken by top adviser Osama el-Baz was having a positive impact, while the American involvement was being intensi-

fied and upgraded. Senior officials in the Foreign Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office have been awaiting the return from the US of Netanyahu's political adviser.

Uzi Arad, who met peace envoy Dennis Ross in Washington. "Arad will give us a more up-

shell fell inside Israeli territory.

to-date picture," Eytan said. Arad is due back here later this week.

In any case, he contended, the Israeli-Palestinian negotiating process was "getting back on track" and he attributed the latest upsurge of diplomatic activity to the impending UN General Assembly session at which the Arab states hope to elicit a massive condemnation of Israel because of the Har Homa hous-

ing project.
On the other hand, informed sources said the US has been discreetly advising the resolution's sponsors that "hard-line" treatment of Israel could be counterproductive.

justice minister.

dead in true sorrow."

"A military disaster should not be used in a political argument,

SHOTS Continued from Page 1

According to Noam Amon, Hebron Jewish community spokesman, the shots were fired from the north, at approximately 7 p.m. Two of the bullets entered the building, one blowing a hole in a cupboard and the other piercing a window shutter.

Instead of meeting with the murderer Nabil Shaath in Herzliya, we demand that Defense Minister Yîtzhak Mordechai survey the severe security situation in Hebron," Amon said.

The IDF Spokesman confirmed that a number of shots had been fired in the settlement and penetrated the northern wall of Beit Hadassah. IDF soldiers searching the area discovered empty casings 150 meters north of the building. They also found footprints leading toward the H1 area under Palestinian control, and the IDF demanded that their Palestinian counterparts search the

A German television crew was attacked by settlers in the Samarian settlement of Itamar last night. According to Judea and Samaria Police Spokesman Opher Sivan, the ARD Television crew, comprising one foreigner and two Palestinians, started filming in the settlement towards nightfall.

Some 70 settlers attacked the crew, tearing the film out of the camera, and prevented them from leaving, lightly damaging their car in the process, Sivan said.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS CHANGE OF DATE AND VENUE of the Meeting to Present the Guidelines of the Tender



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for a Third Operator of Mobile Radio Telephone Services The meeting will take place on Monday, July 14, 1997 at 10:30 a.m. at the I.C.C. (Birryene) Ha'uma), 3rd floor, room 313, Jerusalem and not as previously published. Participating in the Meeting: Minister of Communications Limor Livnat Director General of the Ministry of Communications and Chairman of the Tenders Committee, Daniel Rosenne Those wishing to attend the meeting are requested to call the Ministry of Communications, Spokesman's Bureau. Tel. **02-670-6323** Vacationing in ElLAT ELAT This guide book on Filat, from Gefen Publishi House and Nature Reserves Authority will help! Featuring 14 one-way hikes, 12 circular trails and 4 car routes Paperback, 120pp, NIS 50.00 (Incl. shipping, also USA)

Chairman of the Board of Governors the prime minister to fire the

BARAK Continued from Page 1

Hanegbi, however, said Barak should call for a state committee of inquiry to investigate the disaster because of the seriousness of the allegations.

He noted that the claims of bereaved families had not been rejected just because the State comptroller said she did not have the means to rule on the

Cohen said Labor would call for a commission of inquiry into Hanegbi's behavior and urged

Ran Cohen (Meretz), chairman of the Knesset State Control Committee, said: "Anyone who said 'Ehud fled' should eat his hat, swallow his words and beg Barak for forgiveness. Any decent person should welcome the decision and remember the

MK Dan Meridor (Likud) said he was against using the Tze'elim-2 disaster to get at Barak.

Arieh O'Sullivan contributed to this report

Barak: Comptroller has vindicated me

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

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A clearly relieved Labor leader Ehud Barak yesterday lauded State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat's announcement that she did not intend to investigate the Tze'elim-2 disaster - a 1992 training accident that killed five soldiers and wounded six. Barak claimed her decision vindicated him by rebutting allegations that he had abandoned the wounded men.

Barak said the Comptroller's statement "establishes clearly and unequivocally that there was no basis to the slanderous allegations printed in the press or attered by political hooligans about abandoning wounded sol-

Barak was referring to the Yediot Aharonot report about an alleged "cover-up" in the Tze'elim-2 disaster, and to Instice Minister Tsahi Hanegbi's attack on him in the Knesset 11 days ago. Hanegbi waved the newspaper and, misquoting from it, charged Barak with bolting from the scene and abandoning wounded soldiers.

Barak replied by telling Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu (whom Hanegbi was representing and who refused to take

back Hanegbi's accusations), that his late brother, Yoni, would have been ashamed of him. Yoni had been very close to Barak, who was his commander and mentor in the army.

Barak said the State

Comptroller had put an end to the "deliberate, wicked and painful" slander which had been haunting him for two years. "Nothing harms an officer more, and me in particular," said Barak, "than the charge of abandoning the wounded. I hope that no IDF commander will ever find himself in the future facing this type of slan-

"What the State Comptroller has done, in fact, is to say there is so little basis for the slander that there is no point in even opening an investigation, since one was done immediately afterwards, and the same people testified then."

Barak said that when he learned that the State Comptroller intended to make an announcement in the Tze'elim-2 case, he had no idea what it would be, but hoped it would end the affair. "I couldn't imagine such a clear, sharp and balanced statement," he said. Barak said "Netanyahu knows

why I said what I said [that Yoni would have been ashamed of him]. It wasn't for his functioning as prime minister. I was referring to his sending that adolescent hooligan of his to the Knesset podium with that mes-

Former Justice Minister MK Moshe Shahal (Labor) said "Hanegbi is continuing with his lies and distortions. We should all be ashamed of having such a justice minister, whose membership in the cabinet is made possible only because of the black box he is holding over the head of the prime minister [in the Bar-On affair]." Barak received unexpected

support from Shas chairman MK Arye Deri and MK Dan Meridor, who took his side against Hanegbi. Deri called on Hanegbi to argue with Barak on political issues as much as he wants, "but in the Tze'elim-2 disaster it has to stop. The moment the State Comptroller has had her say, there is no place for further investigation." Meridor blasted Hanegbi's attacks on the former chief of staff, noting "it's very important for us to leave the disasters, the wounded and the casualties out of the political war."



State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat prepares to deliver her announcement on the Tze'elim-2 disaster at the Knesset yesterday. State Comptrol Committee Chairman Ran Cohen is at her left.

COMMENT

Politically, Tze'elim simply won't go away

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Despite the state comptroller's decision not to investigate the allegations against Ehud Barak stemming from the Tze'elim-2 disaster, the affair will remain on the political agenda.

Tze'elim is the Likud's "secret weapon" against the Labor leader. If the Likud and the Right can discredit and delegitimize Barak, they reckon they can secure the next elections.

This is why Netanyahu did not condemned tirade against Barak over the Tze'elim affair in the Knesset 11 days ago - even though Hanegbi distorted Barak's

Waving the newspaper and giving the impression he was quoting from it, Hanegbi cried "Ehud bolted" and "the wounded soldiers saw him take off in his helicopter." Yediot never wrote that Barak abandoned the wounded and journalist Rami Tal, who wrote the piece, has publicly complained about Hanegbi's presentation of his article.

Political commentators said Hanegbi's attack was a trial balloon floated on behalf of the prime minister to test the elections air.

However, the Likud may have disassociate himself from Justice unsheathed its secret weapon too Minister Tzahi Hanegbi's much- soon. Many coalition members soon. Many coalition members - them. think the tactic could becomerang. A smear must not-be easily provedgroundless if it is to work. A formidable battery of experts - the role by misquoting Yediot chief of staff, generals, a doctor Aharonot's expose of the incident. and other eyewitnesses is ranged

Even MKs Arye Deri and Dan Meridor, clearly displeased with Hanegbi's conduct, yesterday urged Hanegbi to lay off Barak and not to involve military disasters and casualties in political war-

Observers compare the assault on Barak with the Likud campaign to discredit the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin with rumors of drunkenness and a breakdown during the Six Day War. Others recalled Likud whispers of Peres's "Arab mother" and of his shares in Tadiran. Some people still believe

Rabin confronted the rumors head-on by telling his story to the press in his special direct way, effectively neutralizing the critics. Barak's supporters believe he must do the same.

Tze'elim-2 – a brief summary should be prosecuted, as should Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine, who bore responsibility

Thursday, November 5, 1992: Five soldiers are killed and six wounded in a training accident near Tze'elim, in the Negev, when they are hit by an accidentally-fired

Then-chief of general staff Ehud Barak appoints an investigating committee, headed by Maj,-Gen. Menahem Einan, to probe

the accident. November 15, 1992: After interviewing 25 witnesses and examining over 100

exhibits, the committee concludes that · While Barak had witnessed the accident, he had played no role in planning the drill and thus carried no responsibility for its results; 💛

' > Preparation for the drill had been faulty and the drill itself had not been carried out according to standing safety regulations.

as commander of the troops involved. An additional reprimand is later recommended

for intelligence chief Maj.-Gen: Uri Saguy. March 11, 1994: Former chief of staff Dan Shomron decides that, for their role in the accident. Levine should be reprinzeded and that a simple warning should be

issued to Saguy.
October 17, 1994: A malitary court resolves not to sentence the two junior officers responsible for Tze'elim. Instead, the officers are given suspended sentences and demoted in rank. Families of the Tze elim victims announce plans to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court

"July 1995: State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat declares that she has initiated a ro conungency plan had been drawn ap, probe of the affair and of the initiary's nor had safety officers been appointed to response, as part of a general investigation supervise. Supervise.

The committee therefore concludes that of Barak's rumored appointment as interitive. DF afficers directly responsible of minister, a Yediot Aharonot report.

accuses Barak of indifference to the suffering of the soldiers wounded at

The report alleges Barak: left the scene of the accident shortly after it occurred;

- refused to use his private belicopter to evacuate the wounded;

· changed his story of the events in order protect Levine from punishment. Hastily returning from a trip to China,

Barak denounces the report as "twisted and false," and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin rejects calls for a new government inquiry into the accident. June 26, 1997: Barak calls on Ben-Porat

to release the results of her inquiry, after Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi reads the. Yedior report on Tze elim-2 in the Knesset. Parents of soldiers killed in the accident publicly criticize the IDF for refusing to

take high-level responsibility for the affair.

Compiled by Jonathan Tepperman and

Soya oil replacing silicone in breast implants

By JUDY STEGEL

. Silicone is out, and soya is in - for breast implants, that is.

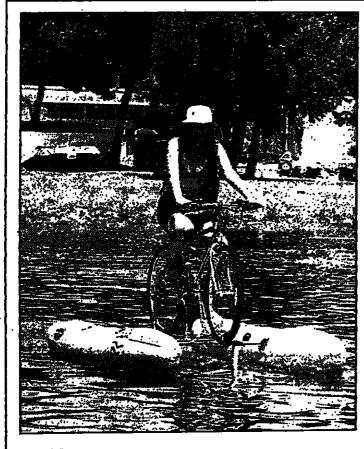
Assaf Harofeh Hospital's plastic surgery department has begun using sacks of processed soya oil to augment breasts or to reconstruct them for women who have undergone a mastectomy. The oil replaces silicone, which has been accused without proof so far - of causing all kinds of complications for the immune system, as has saline.

Dr. Moshe Westreich, head of the plastic surgery department at the Tzrifin hospital, said that saline is not recommended because it looks opaque in x-rays and can hide breast tumors. Soya oil implants, however, are clear and cause no harm in the rare event that they are punctured and leak into the body.

Assaf Harofeh doctors have

implanted the oil-filled sacks into five women so far, and all have been pleased with the results. The soya implants are more viscous, and therefore more natural feeling, than saline, though less so than silicone, Westreich added.

Westreich says the Health Ministry approved their use recently following approval by the Swiss, Italian, and German health authorities.



A woman demonstrates a water bicycle yesterday on a lake at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds. The bicycle is one of hundreds of new products and inventions on display at the Man and His World 97 exhibition, which opened at the fairgrounds (Ilan Ossendryver/Israel Sun)

New laser technique improves chances of IVF

Israeli fertility specialists have produced the first babies in the world conceived by drilling a hole in the ovum with an excimer laser. allowing easier rooting in the uterus. The two babies, a boy and a girl, were born two months ago. and 12 more pregnancies made possible by this "assisted hatching"

technique are now in progress. The technique was developed over the past eight years by Prof. Neri Laufer, chief of gynecology and obstetrics at Hadassah-University Hospital on Jerusalem's Mt. Scopus and head of its In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF) Unit, with help from Prof. Aaron Lewis, head of Hadassah's laser department, and advice from Hadassah Medical Organization director-general Prof. Shmuel Penchas.

Laufer said yesterday that Lewis adapted the excimer laser from the type used for radial keratotomy, the ophthalmological technique that can eliminate the need for glasses in nearsighted patients.

The ova of older women have thicker shells, so it's more difficult for sperm to penetrate and for the fertilized egg to secure itself to the wall of the womb. Until now, sperm have been "shot" into ova and then implanted in the uterus, and acids have been used to dissolve a tiny spot on the shell of the ovum so that the embryo can

The chemicals (similar to digestive acids) may harm the resulting embryo, which then has to be dis-

Foreign Ministry against Beilin meeting British minister carded; this loss reduces the IVF

success rate. During the past three years, less-suitable types of lasers (such as the carbon dioxide laser), which produce charring and can harm the ovum, have been used but with limited success. But Hadassah's use of a "clean" excimer laser to drill the hole avoids the potential damage to the embryo and produces an opening

biochemical effect that helps the embryo "hatch" and take root. The technique can be especially useful for older women, or for those who have undergone repeated IVF The first baby, a girl, was delivered by a 40-year-old Jerusalem mother of one who had undergone seven IVF cycles. The other infant. a boy, was delivered by a 38-yearold childless woman who had

By JAY BUSHINSKY

MK Yossi Beilin's projected meeting in London with a government minister who made disparaging comments about Israel is generating diplomatic discomfort in both countries.

One of the remarks made three weeks ago by Labor's with an exact width, producing a Arabs.

undergone eight fruitless IVF treat-

If the clinical trials continue to be successful, Laufer says the excimer laser treatment "could be a breakthrough" for such women.

Claire Short to a British society known as Medical Aid to the Palestinians implied that expiation for Nazi Germany's crimes was being wrongly asked of the "I am very conscious of the

historical wrongs done to the Palestinian people, and the unfairness of the world's expectation that they should make sacrifices to make up for the evil done by Europeans during the Holocaust," Short The Hebrew daily Ha'aretz

cited a "round-about comparison" reportedly made by her between Israel's attitude

toward the Palestinians and the Nazi attitude toward the Jews. Beilin reportedly disregarded a recommendation made by the Israeli embassy in London that he not meet Short. The Foreign Ministry sent the embassy a list of key figures in the new Labor government, asking that it facilitate meetings between Beilin and them. Short's name

was not on the list.

The Foreign Ministry also lodged a protest against Short's statements, and received an immediate rejoinder from Whitehall stating that the minister's comments were not in line with British foreign

Beilin's apparent disregard of the Foreign Ministry's request is reminiscent of the complaint registered by Israel's embassy in Washington against Labor Party Chairman Ehud Barak for having committed himself to meetings with various American political kingpins and media people.

Arabs: Boycott Jerusalem, settler goods

By MARILYN HENRY

Setting the stage for a fierce renewal of the UN debate on Har Homa, the Arab states this week were circulating a proposed resolution that calls on Israel to cease construction at the Jerusalem site, and calls on UN members to bar the import of any goods produced or made in the settlements or

The draft resolution also sug-Jerusalem. gests limiting Israel's activity in the General Assembly, saying that "normal participation by a member state cannot be carried out while it is simultaneously and systematically violating international law." It did not elaborate.

The assembly session was requested by Egypt, which is serving this month as chairman of and the Palestinians.

the Arab Group at the UN. The session, which is expected to open on Tuesday, would be a continuation of April's emergency UN session on Har Homa, and the fifth UN session on the Jerusalem housing project in less than five months. The April session, which ended with a resolution that condemned Israel for the Har Homa project, was the first emergency session since 1982 and only the 10th since the

Korean War. It came after two debates in the Security Council, where the US, on March 7 and March 21, twice vetoed comparable resolutions on Har Homa. The US does not support the Har Homa project, but has said that such disputes must be resolved between the Israelis

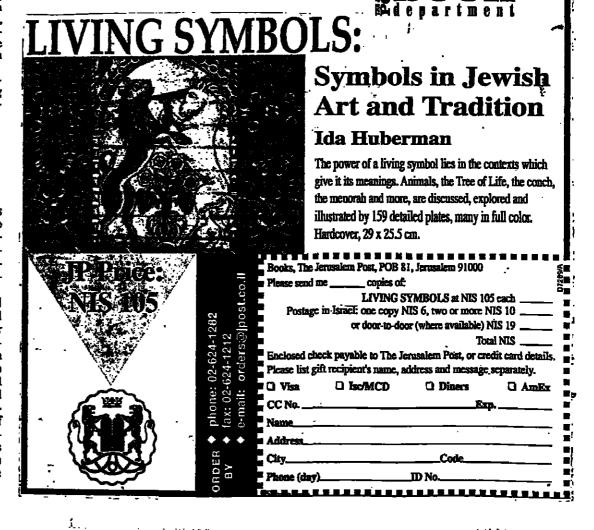
Further, US Ambassador Bill Richardson assailed the April 25 vote in the assembly, saying it set "a dangerous precedent" by infringing on the council's authority.

Israel also attacked the original emergency session as unwarranted. Israel's acting ambassador, charge d'affaires David Peleg, said at the time, There was no procedural or substantive justification for the convening of the 'special emergency session' ... concerning the construction of a residential neighborhood in

Jerusalem." General Assembly resolutions are not binding. Nonetheless, the Palestinians have been adroit at "internationalizing" the dispute, and keeping Har Homa on the UN calendar, amid crises in

The draft resolution also asks UN members to take measures to halt any support for Israeli settlements and their economic infrastructures by companies and individuals in their respective coun-

On April 25, the General Assembly demanded that Israel immediately cease work on Har Homa, and asked Secretary-General Kofi Annan to issue a report on the matter within two months. His report said Israel had not stopped the construction and that this was "viewed as particujarly serious" for a variety of political, geographic, demographic and economic reasons, as well as because of its effects on the faltering Middle East peace



in brief

Court orders probe of missing 1948 victims

The Supreme Court yesterday ordered the Defense Ministry to investigate the unsolved mystery of a group of doctors and nurses whose bodies went missing after a convoy in which they were traveling to Hadassa Hospital in 1948 was attacked and the group massacred. The court also ordered the State to set up a genetic database of the missing persons' family members within 60 days to facilitate later identification.

The orders were issued in response to petitions from journalist Yehoshua Levanon and Defense Ministry staffer Arie Karner whose fathers were among the massacre victims. The court did not, at this stage, order the opening of graves in the East Jerusalem Moslem cemetery where the petitioners believe some of those who went missing are buried.

MK: Check discrimination against Druse soldiers

Knesset Interior Committee chairman Salah Tarif has demanded that Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai examine complaints that Druse soldiers are forbidden entry to entertainment establishments in the North, like discotheques.

Such complaints were put forward to the defense minister when he visited a Druse unit in the Northern Command on Tuesday. A group of Druse leaders, including Tarif, are to travel to the North next week to hear the complaints for them-

"This is racism of the first order. Druse soldiers can die for our country, but can't get into places of entertainment." Tarif said. "This phenomenon just demonstrates that Israeli society has a serious problem dealing with Druse, and this must be rooted out immediately."

Woman to become army base commander

The IDF will soon appoint a female officer as commander of the recruit training base at Nitzanim - the first time such a position has been given to a woman.

Deputy Chief of General Staff Maj. Gen. Matan Vilna'i, who said he supports opening more posts to women, made the announcement as he accompanied Communications Minister Limor Livnat to the signals and electronics corps training school at the Israel Air Force base in Tel Nof.

Livnat said she was satisfied with the integration of women in the IDF, but said there was still room for improvement. She met with female officers on the base, but many complained of

restricted opportunities for advancement. "I hope and believe that [advancement] will come, even if the revolution won't be overnight," Livnat said.

Arieh O'Sullivan

Susskind remanded until end of trial

Tatiana Susskind, 26, who is accused of posting leaflets in Hebron depicting Mohammed as a pig late last month, was remanded by the Jerusalem District Court yesterday until the end of her trial.

Susskind is accused of offending religious sensibilities, committing a racist act, and endangering life on the road. The latter charge stems from her allegedly having thrown a rock at an Arab car traveling on the road between Kiryat Arba and Hebron, the day after posting the leaflets.

Judge Ezra Kama said that there is no argument about the evidence and that "the accused poses a danger to public safety and has seemingly proven that she has lost control and wishes to deliberately commit provocative acts, since immediately after being released from questioning on the matter of the leaflets, she threw a rock, an act that is clearly dangerous."

Susskind's lawyer, Shmuel Kaspar, said he would appeal the

ruling.
Right-wing activists Avigdor
Eskin and Emanuel Ribakoff were detained for five hours yesterday, in what Eskin claimed was an illegal fashion.

According to Eskin, the two were in a taxi traveling to the district court, when a police car cut them off, and two policemen emerged to arrest them, saying they were suspected of disturbing the peace.

This was all done to prevent us from getting to the court to protest the continued detention of Tatiana Susskind. What they did was against the law, because they didn't even question us," Eskin said. He said he planned to file a

Also yesterday, three rabbis gave an inscribed copy of the Koran to the Hebron school which was vandalized several days ago. Palestinians say IDF soldiers were involved in the



Tatiana Susskind is brought into Jerusalem District Court, where she was remanded until the end of legal proceedings.

(Brien Ficadies)

vandalism, in which four copies of the Koran were torn up. The IDF denies soldiers were involved.

Rabbi Jeremy Milgrom, one of three rabbis who visited the al-Yaacubia school, said he was worried that the political conflict between Israelis and Palestinians was taking on religious connota-

"We came to visit the school

which was ransacked, to see the destruction," said Milgrom, of the Israeli Rabbis for Human Rights group. "We brought a Koran. We inscribed it and gave it to the headmistress," he said.

"What is really frightening and we are very concerned that the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians will deteriorate into a religious war," Milgrom said. Meanwhile, an Egyptian

lawyer has sued Israel for \$10 billion in compensation for the posting of the pig leaflets, while another lawyer wants Israel to pay for printing 1 billion copies

of the Koran. Court officials in Cairo said esterday the two lawyers recent-

ly filed the separate cases. In the leaflet case, lawyer Mustafa Ashoub named Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu as the defendant. The trial is set for August 4.

Israeli Ambassador to Egypt Zvi Mazel is named defendant in the second case by Mustafa Roslan. No trial date has been

Israeli Embassy spokesman Lior Ben-Dor said the embassy has not been notified about the cases, and it will anyway ignore:

Housing plan distinguishes between Jewish, Falash Mura Ethiopian immigrants

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

By next March, all Ethiopian Jewish immigrants should be able to move out of the mobile homes where they currently live, according to a plan announced by the Prime Minister's Office in conjunction with the Housing and Absorption ministries Tuesday night.

However, the new plan does not apply to some 3,000 Falash Mura living at the caravan sites, for whom a tion" between the Falash Mura and Housing Ministry spokesman said a "separate plan" would be worked out. The spokesman insisted that the plan would simply involve "a technical separation," but refused to elaborate. The distinction is opposed by leaders of the Ethiopian Jewish com-

According to an Absorption Ministry spokesman, single Ethiopian immigrants would be eligible for a NIS 180,000 mortgage, NIS 135,000 of which will become a grant. Families will be eligible for a NIS 300,000 mortgage, 90 percent of which will become a grant. Those who choose to rent apartments will be eligible for NIS 1,300 in monthly subsidies, NIS 600 for singles.

Shlomo Mula, secretary of the Ethiopian Association, had a mixed reaction. We are very happy that a policy has finally been set regarding the liquidation of the mobile home sites, which are an embarrassment to the state," Mula said. He called the decision a "positive one," and said his organization would cooperate in the effort to do away with the caravans. "but we oppose the idea of separaother Ethiopian immigrants when determining criteria for housing grants.

"We certainly are in favor of establishing criteria based on how long the immigrants have been here," Mula said. "But there is no reason why anyone who is an Israeli citizen and has an identity card should not receive such assistance."

Mula said his organization would encourage Ethiopian immigrants to accept the "generous" financial offer. but called on the Housing Ministry to find a different solution for 70-80 elderly immigrants living in the caravans. "They should be allowed to live together in hostels, like the Russian immigrants," Mula said.

Israel: PA assault on monastery violated Oslo Accords

By HAIM SHAPPRO

Israel yesterday accused the Palestinian Authority of violating the Osio Accords in its assault on the Abraham's Oak Russian Orthodox Monastery in Hebron.

During the assault, which took place on Saturday, PA security forces ousted clergy belonging to the New York-based Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia and installed clergy of the Moscow-based Russian Orthodox Patriarchate. The New York-based church had occupied the building since the Jordanian government ruled that it was the rightful owner in the early 1950s.

Archimandrite Bartholomew, local head of the New York-based church, charged that Palestinian policemen broke down the doors of the monastery, and cursed and beat the monks, nuns and priests inside. He said male and female police assaulted a nun, punched her in the stomach and pounded her head against a

He also said that the abbess was dragged along the floor so that her head hit the stones and she had to be hospitalized. A monk was handcuffed, thrown to the ground and stomped

A statement issued yesterday by the Government Press Office said that under the terms of the Oslo Accords, the PA is obligated to safeguard holy sites and ensure free access to them. The statement quoted Annex II, Appendix I, Article 32, which says that "both sides shall respect and protect the listed below religious rights of Jews, Christians, Moslems and Samaritans.

The GPO statement said the PA had also violated the agreement by orchestrating riots in September 1996 near Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem in which a mob assaulted the site and Palestinian police shot and wounded Israeli soldiers. It said that during the same riots, Palestinian police led a mob which assaulted Joseph's Tomb in Nablus, killing six Israeli soldiers and burning Jewish prayer books, Bibles and religious articles. Finally, the statement said that the PA had refused to allow Jews to visit the ancient synagogue in Gaza. Palestinian Preventive Security Chief Jibril

Rajoub yesterday denied that any force had been used in evicting clergy from the Hebron monastery. "We didn't touch anybody," Rajoub was

quoted as telling the Associated Press.

No smoking on flights of up to five hours El Al, which has been sued by a

The High Court of Justice ruled yesterday that from August. Israeli-owned commercial airlines must ban smoking on flights of up to five hours; at present, there is a two-hour limit. The justices voiced displeasure over the practice of allowing smoking on flights going to Britain and then continuing to the US because the transatlantic flight was supposedly "part" of the shorter flight to Europe, and "too long" for smokers to go without their tobacco.

The court, which will hold another session in three months to hear about implementation of the ruling, called on the government to reach agreements with transport ministries abroad to prohibit smoking on foreign airlines as

number of its stewards and passengers, has promised to ban smoking on all flights if foreign airlines make the same routes smoke-free as well.

A private survey conducted by El Al found that only 13% of its passengers smoke (compared to 27% of the general Israeli population), and that just 7% ask for a seat in the smoking section. Because of this minority, the non-smoking majority has been subjected to poisonous tobacco smoke, said Amos Hausner, the attorney who represented the stewards. Hausner was hopeful that the High Court ruling would be enforced, as it was clear that the justices appreciated the anti-smoking arguments on behalf of the plaintiffs, he

Doctors warned about diet drugs

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Health Ministry has issued new guidelines regarding the prescription of fenfluramine, phentermine and mazindole - diet drugs that in the US have been found to cause primary pulmonary hypertension and deformed heart valves in women taking them for more than

The ministry decided to act after the US Food and Drug Administration sent similar warnings to thousands of American physicians who prescribe "fenphen," a popular combination of diet pills. The combination was never approved by the FDA, although each of the two drugs was approved by itself for short period of time. In practice, people who were only mildly overweight have taken the drugs for over three months. US doctors have written 18

million prescriptions a month for these drugs. The first signs of the potentially fatal heart-lung condi-tion are respiratory difficulties. tiredness and disquier, followed by swelling of the lower limbs and chest pains.

The diet drugs, which are not supplied by Israeli health funds, are meant only for patients with a weight problem that endangers their health, not for those who want to reduce for cosmetic reasons, the ministry said yesterday in a response to queries from The Jerusalem Post. Only patients with a body/mass index (weight in kilos divided by height in meters squared) of 30 and over are suited for the drugs, and only if they have other risk factors, including hypertension or diabetes.

The ministry said it was issning the new guidelines even though there have been no reports in Israel of complications from these drugs.

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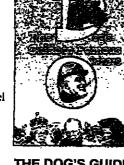
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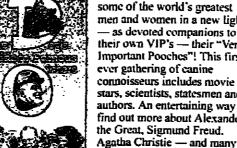
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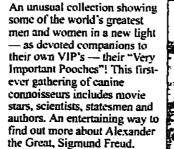
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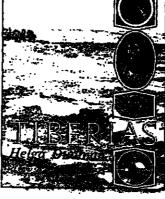




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Negative attitude to immigrants 'a Zionist crime'

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

"The antipathy felt by many Israelis towards immigrants and immigration is a Zionist crime. Every Israeli must join the effort to absorb immigrants, and see in this a personal or family mission," Education Ministry Director-General Benzion Dell said yester-

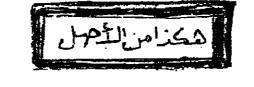
Dell, reacting to an Israel Radio poll which found Israelis held largely negative attitudes towards immigrants from the CIS, said the figures showed a need for a nationwide educational campaign.

According to the poll, 34 percent of those questioned said "the immigration from the CIS frightens me," while 63% opposed encouraging

mass immigration from the CIS, 80% said immigrants compete with Israelis for jobs, and 63% said they

bring down wages.
A total of 58% were not prepared to dedicate a few hours a week to help with absorption, while 42% said the immigrants get too much help from the government as it is, and 53% said they thought the professional documents from their home countries were worthless.

"If this is the way Israelis feel about immigration," said Dell, "something very basic has been broken in the Israelis' Ten Commandments" Dell said minisny officials would discuss the findings in coming days and seek new ways to increase educational activity on this subject.



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Iran-based Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in

Iraq said the deaths occurred late last month as Iraqi Shi'ites were trying to make their way to the shrine of the Shi'ite Imam Hussein in Karbala.

with its alpha proton X-ray spec-

trometer earlier in the mission,

following the Pathfinder space-

craft's landing in the Ares Vallis

But the initial photographs from

the lander craft showed the front

of the rock was sitting in a hollow,

perhaps formed when it was

deposited there, either by a flood

or being blasted from a nearby

volcanic eruption millions or bil-

basin of Mars last Friday.

The group said the guard units blocked the pilgrims' way to Karbala, 100 kilometers south of Baghdad. It said the troops then opened fire on the pilgrims when they tried to sneak to the shrine through date-palm plantations

around the city. There was no explanation for why the guards tried to block the pilgrims from reaching the holy city on June 25, which marked the 40th day after the anniversary of

the death of Hussein-Hussein, a grandson of Islam's



this never happens again."
The NATO-Ukraine linkup parallels the agreement concluded in May between the Western military alliance and Russia. It provided Moscow a voice, but not a veto, in NATO deliberations. Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny

By BARRY SCHWEID

MADRID (AP) - After a historic decision to expand eastward, NATO closed ranks with Ukraine yesterday and moved to upgrade

political and military cooperation

with other countries - all with the

goal of creating "a Europe where East and West are partners."

Tuesday to join NATO in 1999.

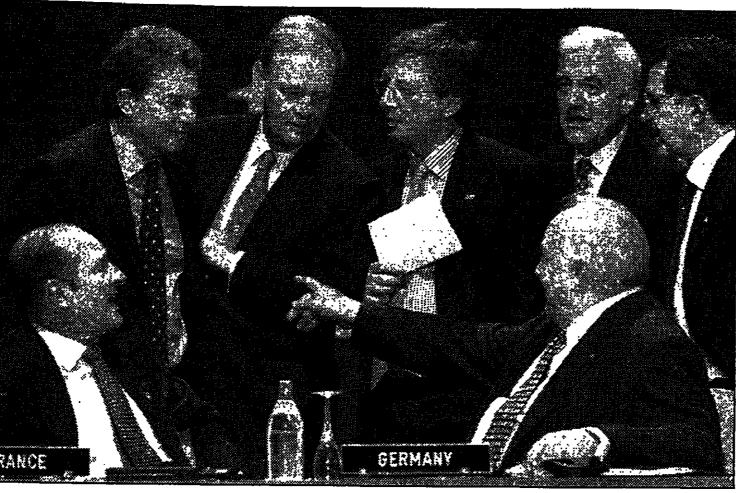
Council.

Primakov, meanwhile, said in Moscow that Russia considered NATO's expansion "a big mistake maybe its biggest mistake since the end of World War II." President Boris Yeltsin was on vacation.

NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana and all 16 NATO leaders signed the accord in a ceremony that accorded Ukraine attention that it rarely commands on the world scene, as Western leaders concentrate on Russia.

"We take another step toward that new Europe," Clinton said. He said Ukraine had taken bold steps, including its renunciation of nuclear weapons, that "have made this continent more stable and more secure."

President Leonid Kuchma said



German Chancellor Helmut Kohl (seated, right) makes a point to British Prime Minister Tony Blair (standing, left) before a signing ceremony with the Ukraine at the NATO summit in Madrid yesterday. Looking on are (from left) French President Jacques Chirac, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker, Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi, and Walter Neuer, the head of Kohl's staff.

Ukraine "is ready to take part in providing peace and stability" in Central Europe. He also pledged

to modernize Ukraine's economy. The signing of this charter today is a visible symbol of a new Europe," Solana said. "Not a Europe of the past, not a Europe of divisions, not a Europe of conflict between East and West but, on the contrary, the Europe of the future - a united Europe and a Europe where East and West are partners."

France's President Jacques Chirac, extolling the linkup to Kiev, said, "We extend our hand to a new partner who has shown a sensitivity to peace."

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said the signing symbolized that "conflict has been superseded by even closer cooperation."

NATO, Ukraine sign pact

Last week, Kuchma's prime minister, Pavlo Lazarenko, was forced to resign. He was blamed for sluggish reforms, especially in privatization.

Kuchma in May signed a friendship treaty with Yeltsin. Kuchma achieved the pact in part by warning Yeltsin he would push Ukraine into the Western camp if frayed relations were not mended.

US Defense Secretary William Cohen, in Madrid for the decision to expand NATO, was due to leave after Wednesday's ceremony to attend the windup of a NATO military exercise in Ukraine.

The decision to hold NATO expansion to three Eastern and Central European countries stifled a move by France and a majority of the allies to invite Romania and Slovenia to join as well.

Chirac, who led the drive for a bigger expansion, said "France, for the moment, has conceded nothing." He referred to the opendoor policy stressed in the alliance's windup communique, which could put Romania, Slovenia and other countries on a track to membership later on.

Slovenian and Romanian leaders expressed disappointment that their nations were not invited to join NATO this time.

"We expect to be included very soon, one year or perhaps two years from now," Slovenian Prime Minister Janez Drnousek told a news conference in Madrid.

Romanian President Emil Constantinescu said also pledged patience in pursuit of eventual NATO membership.

"I believe in a favorable result in the long term for Romania," Constantinescu said, as he departed his capital of Bucharest for

in brief

Russian security chief quits

The head of Russia's internal security troops, who commanded Russian forces during the Chechen War, announced yesterday that he was resigning for health reasons. Col. Gen. Anatoly Shkirko told a meeting of top commanders that a medical commission had found him to be only "partly suited" for service, according to a government press statement. "This is my own decision ... I've submitted a request to be transferred to reserve duty," the report quoted Shkirko as saying.

Shkirko headed the military formations controlled by the Interior Ministry, which are responsible for internal security. The force has some 200,000 men.

Senator: China sought to influence US policy

The chairman of the US Senate investigation into political campaign fundraising said Tuesday China sought to influence US elections with illegal money. "Our investigation suggests the plan continues today," Sen. Fred Thompson said. China has repeatedly and angrily denied such allegations.

Meanwhile, a key figure in the investigation, who had refused for months to testify or provide some documents without immunity, made a last-minute offer. Democratic fundraiser John Huang is willing to testify about allegations he was a spy but

still insists on immunity for testimony about fund raising.
"I think it is very important and I think it is encouraging," Thompson said of Huang's offer, but "serious questions" must first be resolved. Hung, a former Commerce Department official, is alleged to have helped transfer funds from large Asian companies to the Democrats. He is a former employee of the Lippo group, an Indonesia conglomerate.

First death in Albania multinational force

A 19-year-old soldier serving with an Italian-led multinational security force in Albania died yesterday when an explosive device he was handling went off, Defense Ministry officials said. The dead soldier, Corporal Diego Vaira from Fossano, Italy, was the first casualty from the 7,000-strong force. Three Italian military personnel were injured in the incident in a store tent at a field hospital near the southern Albanian port of Vlore.

Italian Defense Ministry undersecretary Massimo Brutti said the death was apparently not the result of an attack by armed Albanians or a stray bullet. He had no further details. Reuters

Brazil truck explosion kills 15

Two trucks carrying ammonia and diesel exploded in the northwestern Amazon, killing at least 15 people, a major TV network reported Tuesday. The trucks blew up Monday near the remote jungle town of Sapucaia, 2,500 kilometers northwest of Sao Paulo in Amazonas state, Globo TV reported.

The truck carrying ammonia stopped on a highway after one of its tires caught fire. The flames engulfed the vehicle, causing it and a nearby truck loaded with diesel to explode. Most of the 15 people killed in the blast were in a van passing near the explosion, Globo TV said.

After Barnacle Bill, Mars rover prepares to meet 'Yogi'

determine where it should place its

By MICHAEL MILLER

lions of years ago. This, explained Golombek at a PASADENA, Calif. (Reuters) media briefing, could mean that if Having tangled with the likes of the rover was to venture to that part "Barnacle Bill," the Mars rover of the rock it might slide into the hollow and bump its solar panels Sojourner prepared yesterday to against the rock, depriving its batterturn its attention to "Yogi" in its continuing quest to determine ies of valuable energy from the sun. So the Sojourner spent much of what Mars is made of and whether Tuesday taking high resolution, life ever existed on the Red Planet. close-up pictures of "Yogi" to The little six-wheeled buggy's

geological probings of "Barnacle Bill" - so named because it has litspectrometer against the rock, where it would bombard the surtle markings all over its surface have already shown that far from face with protons. Based on what the probe discovbeing alien, Mars is a lot like ers, scientists hope to be able to Earth, much to the surprise of the determine the rock's composition. scientific team gathered at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory here. Instructions were to be sent to

But they expect yesterday's the microwave-oven-sized rover in the early hours yesterday telling robotic analysis to show that it where to take its measurement, Yogi," - which some scientists probably at the side of the rock said looks like a bear - will be where there did not appear to be a different again to "Bamacle Bill." depression. Golombek said. "From what we can see from the

Meanwhile, the atmosphere at photographs, this is a totally difthe Jet Propulsion laboratory ferent rock and probably with a remained charged with excitement somewhat different composition," as Mars continued to surprise the said scientist Matthew Golombek. The Sojourner had been origimission scientists. nally scheduled to scan "Yogi"

Not only did the analysis of "Barnacle Bill" show that Mars was more similar to the Earth than even the moon, it went a long way toward proving that a meteorite believed to have come from Mars and thought to contain fossil evidence of ancient life did indeed

come from the Red Planet. "Barnacle Bill," said Hap McSween of the University of Tennessee, a participating scientist in the Pathfinder science project,

was probably one-third quartz in composition because of the amount of silica it contained.

"I was just floored when it came out silica, and I am still struggling with what the implications are. This is more like Earth than our own moon, which has no quartz on it," he said.

The rover's analysis also revealed the rock's "chemical fingerprints," which McSween said were identical to the 12 meteorites found on Earth that scientists believed originated on Mars billions of years ago.

"So now we can say we have analyzed 13 Martian rocks," he said during a press briefing, adding that one of them was the meteorite designated ALH80041 and discovered in Alaska that has been found to contain organic molecules and iron mineral compounds commonly associated with microscopic organisms.

Meanwhile, interest in the Mars mission continued to capture public attention, not only in newspapers, radio and television worldwide, but on the Internet, with 220 million "hits" being recorded on the Pathfinder's three Web pages from the July 4 landing to Tuesday morning, according to IPL web manager Rich Pavlovski.

"It's an incredible response. I doubt if there's a busier Web page in the world right now," he said. The Web pages can be accessed at http://mprwww.jpl.nasa.gov or http://www.entertainment.digital.c om/mars/jpl or http://mars.sgi.com.

PHNOM PENH (Reuter) - Almost a dozen members of Cambodia's royal family left the between forces loyal to the two premiers in Kher that had been critical of the CPP has dis-

country on evacuation and special flights yes- Phnom Penh. terday, three days after the ouster of Prince Norodom Ranariddh as first prime minister,

Ranariddh's sister, Princess Booha Devi, and his son, Prince Norodom Chakravuth, were the most prominent members of the royal family to leave. The Princess was believed to have been on a flight to Bangkok while Chakravuth left on a later flight to Singapore.

Nine other members of the family, as well as senior officials from Ranariddh's royalist FUNCINPEC party and his cabinet, took flights out of the country to Singapore and Bangkok, the witnesses said.

The airport was heavily guarded by forces loyal to Cambodia's powerful second premier, Hun Sen, but no attempts were made to stop the family members or the party officials from leaving, the witnesses said.

Officials at the royal palace in Phnom Penh. were not immediately available for comment. Hun Sen ousted Ranariddh from power on

Royals, officials flee Cambodia

Ranariddh left the country on Friday, the eve of the fighting, for France.

Meanwhile, US-based Human Rights Watch yesterday urged the international community to help prevent any purge of supporters of ousted Cambodian premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

"Human Rights Watch...called on the international community to unequivocally condemn the coup in Cambodia on Saturday by Cambodian People's Party (CPP) leader and co-Prime Minister Hun Sen...and to take all necessary measures to prevent the CPP from carrying out a massive purge of its opponents," the organization said in a statement in Bangkok.

A senior official in Ranariddh's FUNCIN-PEC party, Ho Sok, was arrested by Hun Sen's troops on Monday and later shot dead, although it was not immediately clear who had killed him.

"Other reports indicate that some 20 FUNC-INPEC members were arrested in Prey Veng.

appeared; human rights monitors in Phnom Penh fear he may be in custody," based Human Rights Watch said. It said the FUNCINPEC police commission-

er in Battambang in northwestern Cambodia was arrested, along with 12 of his bodyguards. Human Rights Watch/Asia said anyone linked to FUNCINPEC or the other two opposition parties appeared to be in danger, as did anyone who had publicly criticized the CPP.

"Hun Sen and the CPP must be held fully responsible for the human rights abuses," said Sidney Jones, executive director of Human Watch/Asia. Jones called on Cambodia's donors, investors and neighbors to

help those in danger. Donor countries pledged \$450 million in aid to the Cambodian government last week in

In a separate statement issued on Tuesday, Amnesty International said more than 50 people were currently in hiding or in need of protection in Cambodia.

Indians suspect Sikh militants in fatal train blast

BHATINDA, India (AP) -Police raided the hideouts of Sikh separatists in Punjab yesterday to look for clues in the bombing of a train that killed 36 passengers and injured 70 others.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Tuesday's blast near the Punjab province town of Bhatinda, 275 kilometers northwest of New Delhi. Punjab was the scene of a 10-year secessionist revolt by Sikh militants who wanted to carve out an independent homeland. The rebellion was crushed in the early 1990s,

but sporadic violence continues. State police chief Pooran Chand Dogra refused to give details of the raids, saying it could prejudice the investigation. He said police are working on various theories. Dogra said the bomb could have

been placed in the train when it stopped for seven minutes after it ters east of Bhatinda, he said.

left a small railroad station near Bhatinda. The train had halted there to give way to another express, he said in an interview.

The blast occurred soon after the five-car Ganganagar-Ambala commuter train with 500 people on board left Bhuchu, 15 kilome-

Phone (day)

Train guard Surject Singh said the train was moving slowly when the blast occurred.

Thousands of people thronged the Bhatinda District Hospital, hoping that their loved ones had escaped the blast. Twenty persons were in critical

condition at the hospital.

Saddam slays Shi'ite pilgrims

CAIRO (AP) - Saddam Prophet Mohammed, was killed Hussein's elite Republican Guards by rival Moslem forces in the year killed at least 109 Shi'ite Moslem The Iraqi government usually pilgrims in clashes near the holy does not comment on charges city of Karbala, an opposition from opposition groups, and there group said Tuesday. was no way to get independent confirmation of the allegations.

The Shi'ites, who make up a majority of Iraq's 21 million people, have long had a tense relationship with Saddam's regime, which is dominated by members of the

An aprising by Shi'ites in southem Iraq after the Gulf War was brutally put down by Saddam's Republican Guards. Thousands of Shi'ites were killed, prompting the US and its Western allies to set up a "no-fly zone" over the South to

protect the Shi'ites. At least 100 Shi'ites died trying to get into Karbala on foot and that dozens were wounded. Nine other pilgrims were killed in neighboring Hilla province when they tried to leave to Karbala.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON PROTECTIVE CLOTHING FOR AIRPORT FIRE FIGHTING PERSONNEL

The Israel Airport Authority is considering the acquisition of new protective clothing (coat and trousers) for its fire fighting

and have at least 5 years experience in the field of protective clothing for fire fighting personnel and meet the rest of the RFI requirements are invited to apply in writing to:

Ben Gurion int'i Airport 70100 Israel, no later than 7.8.1997. The RFI documents are obtainable at the purchasing department office at Ben Gurion int'l Airport, main terminal, second floor,

Reply should include details of manufacturers experience, range and specifications of products and lists of airports which said

Israel Airports Authority

Suppliers/manufacturers who are NFPA and EN469 approved Purchasing Department, Israel Airports Authority, P.O.B. 7,

room 233, (fax: 972-3-9711296) till 24.7,1997

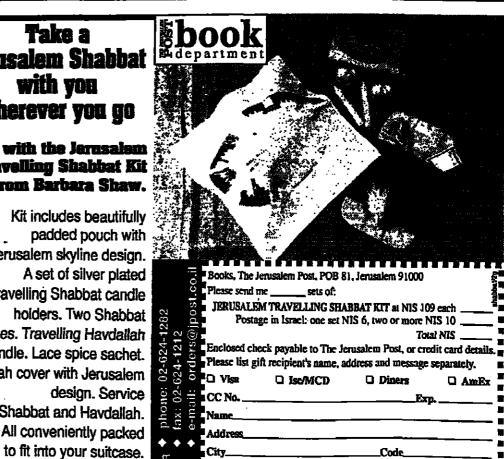
Suppliers/manufacturers who are found suitable for I.A.A's requirement will be requested to provide samples of clothing for

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EDITORIAL OFFICES AND ADMINISTRATION The Jerusalem Post Building, P.O. Box 81, Romema, Jerusalem 91000 Telephone 02-531-5666, Fax 02-538-9527, CIRCULATION—02-531-5610, Fax 02-538-9017, ADVERTISING - 02-531-5608, 02-531-5637-40 Fax 02-538-8408. TEL AVIV: 5 Rehov Hamasper, POB 28398 (61283) Telephone 03-6390333, Fax 6390277. HAIFA 20 Nordau, Hadar Hacarmel, Telephone 04-8623166, Published daily except Saturday, in Jerusalem, Israel by The Palestine Post Ltd. Printed by The Jerusalem Post Press in Jerusalem. Registered at the G.P.O. © The Jerusalem Post 1997, Reproduction, or storage in a retrieval system, or in any other form, is prohibited without permission. Editors: 1932-1955 GERSHON AGRON, 1955-1974 TED LURIE, 1974-1975 LEA BEN-DOR, 1975-1989 ARI RATH and ERWIN FRENKEL, 1990-1992 N. DAVID GROSS,

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A taxing agenda

inance Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman enters tors and the overall investment and savings his new job with a long list of tasks awaiting him. Among the items competing for his attention are the need for an almost immediate NIS 600 million budget cut; requests for more funding from the health and defense sectors; moving forward the Netanyahu government's ambitious privatization plans; demonopolization; tackling the trade and current account deficits; negotiating new public-sector wage agreements; and last, but not least, beginning to work on the 1998 budget.

While he is attending to these matters, the finance minister would also do well to give due consideration to the annual report on taxation released this week by the State Revenues Administration. The report, based on 1996 figures, reveals a disturbingly distorted tax system, riddled with exemptions and discounts, and based on a surprisingly small tax base relative to the population.

According to the report's findings, as much as 47% of income earners in Israel fall below the lowest tax rung and therefore pay no income tax. At the other end of the scale, 5.4% of income earners are in the highest tax bracket and they pay 53.4% of all income tax collected. The sum total of current exemptions and discounts totals NIS 15.1 billion, or 13 percent of all tax revenues. The average monthly wage in the country is NIS 5,595, but only 40% of the population earned more than this, with the worst-paid tenth of the labor force taking home only NIS 467 at the end of the month.

The report's authors are quick to add that these statistics should not be used to draw conclusions about living standards in Israel. The findings refer solely to taxable earned income, and do not take into account National Insurance Institute transfer payments, taxexempt income and what are called "transfers-in-kind" such as health and educational benefits. Transfer payments, both direct and in kind, do raise the living standards of the lowest percentiles of income earners. Nevertheless, the report raises serious questions regarding the distribution of earned income and the tax burden.

The taxation system is no minor matter in determining a nation's wealth. Running a modern state requires considerable revenues which can only be raised through taxation. On the other hand, the way in which the tax burden is distributed, as well as its absolute weight, can have a considerable effect on employment and relative success and failure of economic sec-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

group of American Christians on

the Temple Mount and began to

explain the history of the Second

Temple period. The tour leader

took out a sketch of the Second

Temple and I proceeded to explain

a little about its construction and

We were standing a the time

about 30 meters north of the

Dome of the Rock. We were then

approached by one of the Wakf

people who demanded to see the

sketch. He then took it and began

to confiscate any other sketches

which were in the group. He

Moslem and Palestinian figures to

judge whether there really is peace

or even a peace process with

Moslems and Palestinians who are

influenced by these spokesper-

. "Israel is attempting to obstruct

peace. If Israel continues to succeed

in this approach, then she is

destroying the peace process. The

only option remaining for us will be

an alternative option ... war. Allow

me to say that it takes only one side

to start a war. At the end of the path

on which Israel is proceeding, a

declaration of war awaits." - PA

Unfortunately, Israel's taxation system appears to have been determined on an ad-hoc basis in the early years of the state, based on the relative political strengths of different sectors. A succession of highly competent economists have, over the years, proposed complete overhauls of the tax system along rational lines which would encourage greater economic growth, but such proposals inevitably run into the opposition of entrenched political interests. Whatever improvements have occurred - and there have been some - have been of an incre-

A well-designed tax system should contain at least three main features: as low a tax burden as possible, rationality, and a fair distribution of the burden. In Israel, determining a fair distribution of the tax burden is difficult due to the abnormal situation, depicted by the State Revenues Administration report, in which 47% of wage-earners fall below the minimal taxable income level - an anomaly in what is considered to be a highly educated and skilled work

Steps which can be taken include efforts to close off many of the loopholes and exemptions in the taxation system. According to Economics and State Revenues director Tsipi Gal-Yam, a serious reduction in such exemptions would enable reducing the 50% tax bracket to 40%, lowering the company tax rate from 36% to 29% and VAT from 17% to 16%. All of these reductions would go a long way toward improving economic conditions and employment opportunities.

There are a host of other tax reforms which must also be implemented, including expanding tax brackets to moderate the marginal tax rates paid by middle-income earners; integrating the income, NII and health taxes to ensure the progressive nature of the tax system; decreasing purchase taxes on durable goods, which includes continuing the reform of vehicle and fuel taxes; and abolishing a myriad of anachronistic and difficult-to-collect taxes. As the recent Peruvian experience has shown, the fewer the taxes levied, the larger the actual amount collected.

The issue of tax reform in Israel is long overdue and highly complex. One hopes the appointment of Ne'eman as finance minister will enable the subject to receive the attention it deserves at the highest levels of decision-makwork incentives. The types of products and ing - after all, Ne'eman brings to the job activities taxed can also significantly affect the decades of experience as one of the country's leading experts in tax law.

Sir, - On June 25, I was guiding a asked who the guide was and But I kept my cool and just nodded my head and apologized. What was I supposed to do in front of a group of tourists? He handed back the sketches and told me not to do it again, or I would be thrown off. The tour leader was furious. I was furious. Am I supposed to change history to please the Wakf? Do I need to be abused and scolded like an ignorant child in front of my

> RONNIE COHEN (Licensed Tour Guide)

group? I mean, whose city is this

anyway?

The anger in me was building. **PLANNING WAR**

THE TEMPLE MOUNT

when I identified myself, he

began to berate me and said that

the sketches were not allowed on

the Temple Mount. He went into a

nearby office and returned a few

moments later with another man

who, I assumed, was also from the

Wakf. He came to me and said

that these were not allowed and

that the 144 dunams on the Mount

were Moslem territory. He also

said that I was lucky that a mem-

ber of Hamas had not seen them,

or else there would have been vio-

Sir. - Incitement is an interesting Minister for Jerusalem Affairs word. I would like to quote some Faisal Husseini in a newspaper interview (Al-Ittihad, May 18). direct interviews with leading

"The Zionist entity exists on seized land. The Jews remain enemies because they expropriate lands, build settlements and pay high sums to buy properties. They are the greatest enemies of us Moslems." - PA Mufti Ikrama Sabri in a newspaper interview (The New York Times, May 18).

The struggle we are waging is an ideological struggle and the question is: where has the Islamic land of Palestine gone? Where are Haifa and Jaffa, Lod and Ramle, Acre, Safed and Tiberias? Where are Hebron and Jerusalem?" -

NETANYAHU'S SUPPORT

Sir, - In the Knesset debate on the government's performance during the last year, the opposition critics focused largely on the prime minister's failures, especially regarding the peace process. They were wrong, wrong, wrong, Mr. Netanyahu has succeeded - succeeded in countering the Oslo accords and in bringing a halt to the process. It was for this that he was elected.

Anyone who listens to phone-in programs on the radio will be aware that he still enjoys large and fanatic support - note the latest US assessment that he would be

reelected if elections were to be held now. His policies satisfy his supporters' hatred and distrust of the Arabs and the left, and his attacks on the media echo their own frustrations and need to find scapegoats to blame for the deteriorating situation.

This constituency does not care that the standards of government morality have plunged to new depths. They never thought that Israel could afford morality which is for yefei nefesh (beautiful souls) only. "We voted for Netanyahu," they say, "anyone who doesn't like it can get out."

Yousef Abu Sneineh, preacher at Al-Aksa Mosque, in a Friday sermon (Voice of Palestine, May 23).

"It is our right to ban the sale of land [by Arabs to Jews] in Lod and Ramle, and other cities inside the 1948 borders." - PA Justice Minister Freih Abu Medein, explaining that the death penalty imposed on Arabs who sell land to Jews will be applied to Israeli Arabs as well (Agence France Presse, May 27).

With each passing day and each new statement, we realize that there can be no peace when the Arabs plan war. TOBY WILLIG

Jerusalem.

Livnat, Meridor and company must now be condemned as disloyal. It has always been clear

Thus, their former idols - Levy.

that there can be no peace process on terms acceptable to the Israeli right, that Netanyahu was making empty election promises, knowing them to be empty. This was clear to those who elected him and they love him for defying the world in general and the Arab world in partic-

AMIEL SCHOTZ



An American vassal?

ess than a week ago, Nasa experts worked frantically tions hitch across 500 million kilometers between Earth and their buggy, Sojourner. The sixwheeled buggy was proving reluctant to roll its wheels onto the red dust of Mars.

But even this magnitude of problem was pale in comparison with the complex crossing of wires involved in our premier's maneuverings to appoint a finance minister.

The first person to explode over the airwaves a day after the prize went to Ya'acov Ne'eman was Shimon Shiffer, the top-rated political reporter of Yediot Aharonot.

Shiffer declared on Army Radio that Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai was just one of the messengers America had used to pressure Netanyahu not to include Ariel Sharon in his "kitchenette." Mordechai, he said, was only too happy to play along, fearing that once Sharon, with his vast military experience, became part of the "in" group, he himself would be overshadowed.

Mordechai held secret conversations on this matter with Ne'eman and Netanyahu, as well as with Martin Indyk, the outgoing US ambassador.

'Indyk's role, particularly his involvement in transmitting messages from Washington [designed to to block Sharon securing a seat in the key 'kitchen cabinet' needs further scrutiny," Shiffer said. Commented the startled radio

interviewer, "Menachem Begin once told a US ambassador. 'We're not a vassal state.' Are you saying we are?" Replied Shiffer: "I have no

doubt whatsoever that Indyk played a very, very important role during this last political crisis.... Certainly there is increasing evidence that he passed on messages to all concerned. Put simply, he stressed the US's opposition to Sharon being part of Israel's key defense and political unit. There's no doubt about it," Shiffer con-

The repercussions of this accusation led Indyk to call Sharon with a denial. Responded Sharon, with a sardonic laugh: "Of course not! Who could imagine the greatest democracy in the world intervening in the internal affairs of the

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT

ter of 12 minutes, breaking his own world record.

URI DAN DENNIS EISENBERG

only democracy in the Middle East particularly in a minor matter like choosing an finance minister?"

A leading government official, an expert on Israel-US relations. told the writers of this column: "It's no secret that the US has in the past been involved in influencing policy matters in Israel. Right now, however, the situation

Israel is feeling the cutting edge of US interference

is that Washington is treating Israel like a banana republic.

"How else can you interpret the decision taken by the US administration to reject Netanyahu's decision to appoint Dore Gold as Israel's Washington ambassador? The US insisted that their nominee, Zalman Shoval, be chosen. Certain that Washington's diktat would be obeyed, Indyk held a celebration dinner party for Shoval.

"I don't remember any other case in Israeli history that such a thing has been attempted or heeded in Jerusalem. It was only because of the table-thumping determination of Eliahu Ben-Elissar - including flying back to Israel to fight to keep his job that the plan to replace him with Shoval fell through." Shiffer's remarks evoked an indignant reaction from a US embassy spokesman, who said it was totally untrue that either Martin Indyk or Washington had tried to prevent the appointment of Sharon as finance minister.

"The US has never interfered in Israeli domestic affairs, and didn't do so on this occasion," he said.

THE embassy's protestations would be more convincing were it not for the blatant interference in Israeli domestic affairs by President Clinton during last year's elections. Repeatedly, openly and publicly, he pressured. Israelis to return Shimon Peres as prime minister to "save the peace

To ensure the message got

Hirofumi Nakajima of Japan and Ed 'The Animal' Krachie of New York City (you can guess which

is which) enjoy a nosh at the 82nd annual Fourth of July Hotdog Eating Contest in Brooklyn. The

skinny Nakajima made minced meat of the local hero, outeating him 24.5 hotdogs to 22 in a mat-

So he took a cab to Tel Aviv,

stayed there at a hotel and the fol-

lowing day took another taxi back

to the airport, flew in to

During the meeting he told what

had happened and the people

Jerusalem, and had the meeting.

through, Clinton flew all the way to Sharm-e-Sheikh in March last year to star in an International Peace Summit.

This desert wingding was aimed at boosting Peres's "peace policy," which had cost the country over 200 "victims of peace."

No flagrant policy of interference in Israeli domestic policy could be conducted by the White House without the support and advice of its ambassador in Israel.

During the elections, in accordance with Clinton's policy, Indyk plunged into our heated election battle, in support of Peres. As a result, relations between the ambassador and Netanyahu after the surprise election result were cool.

It took an unprecedented five visits by Netanyahu to the White House over a 10-month spell for the US administration to get the message that the new Israeli premier wasn't such a bad fellow

Unhappily, however, the White House interpreted Netanyahu's approach as inviting US intervention in Israeli affairs. Whether or not this was the premier's conscious agenda is irrelevant, what is important is the effect it had in

To aid the campaign of American interference in Israeli affairs, the New York Times, as if on cue, last week vigorously attacked Netanyahu's plan - to appoint "the destructive former defense sminister Ariel Sharon" to a major government post.

In answer, Sharon told Fox TV: "Was I being 'destructive' in the past, when I eliminated Arab Palestinian terrorism in Gaza, in Israel itself, and in Lebanon?" Whether Indyk has interfered in

internal Israeli matters may be clarified when he appears on oath before a Senate committee prior to assuming his new post as assistant secretary of state for the Middle East.

Certainly US interference became easier once there was no longer a Menachem Begin ready to challenge Big Brother across the Atlantic with the defiant cry: We are not a vassal state."

The writers are authors of The Mossad: Secrets of the Israel Secret Service and other books on the Middle East.

where too embarrassed to tell him

about the country's size. So he

stayed at a Jerusalem hotel, and

flew back the next day to Tel Aviv.

Someday he'll find out, and boy

and from there to the US.

is he gonna be mad!

Screen therapy

DOUGLAS RUSHKOFF

s the Internet a source of psychological problems, or does Lit provide a cure?

For every book or article I read about the detrimental effects of spending time online, I see: another that lists Web sites for people seeking psychological counseling.

There has been a lot of speculation about the effect of computers and the Internet on the psyche. but not a lot of substantive

While some psychologists have reported treating people suffering from "Internet Addiction," so far these cases would have to count as anecdotal evidence.

Usually, these people are using the Internet as a way of avoidant other troubles in their lives, asked bad marriage, a physical problem or social isolation.

If a person has no one to talk to at home, at work or in town, it's no wonder that he might ge addicted to the Internet.

While we can all lament the fact that many young people would rather socialize on the Americans have only themselves and their elected officials blame for what led them to the

Minister Carlo St. 13

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sorry state. Bad urban planning, budget cuts for civic activities and the closing of public parks has effectively de-socialized American communities.

At a time when playing in the street might mean joining a gang, the Internet might be one of the only safe places left to make friends. If anything, interactive media is providing remedial help for people who have no other form of interaction available.

The other main accusation made against Internet users is that they run the risk of fracturing. their own sense of self by developing alternative, online per-

A few books have emerged

Cyber-counseling is it for real?

claiming that if people present themselves online as someone they are not - a man creating and playing the character of a littlegirl, for example - an identity crisis will ensue.

I'm not entirely convinced that such role playing isn't healthy. The Internet might be much more akin to a public dream

space. Role playing is a common form of social therapy. Rather than repressing our l the ether, we should invite even more daring forms of play within safely contained environments. Instead of blaming the Internet

for eliciting perverse behaviors, we might look at what sorts of social repression in daily life lead people to vent their alter egos

If the brawny foreman at the loading dock wants to use a Little Orphan Annie avatar (character picture) to represent himself in an online discussion room, he's obviously experiencing and expressing a part of himself he may need to get in touch with. As long as he's not doing it to seduce children, let's not stand in his -

I believe the Internet is psychologically curative. Mere participation in the right sorts of activities and conversations force a level of social intimacy and selfobservation that teaches people about themselves and their ability to maintain relationships.

BUT many psychologists have decided to take this even further. An increasing number of psychological counseling sites have appeared on the Web and within subscription services like America Online.

Some sites are simple peer-topeer counseling groups on issues ranging from eating disorders and agoraphobia to cancer and mourning. Others are hosted by professional therapists, who use private chat rooms for "group therapy." Their clients pay.

Many psychologists even

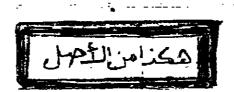
accept private patients whom they never meet in real life, but. simply counsel on one-on-one chats.

Sites like "Cyber Counseling Interactive Network" offer the services of licensed therapists for about the same rate as live striptease sites — about \$2 or \$3 per minute. I doubt they are any more curative.

These therapists claim they can tell almost as much about a patient from his words as they could from being with him in-person. Frankly, I think that claim is hard to back up.

The Internet itself is a form of social and psychological therapy. But unless you live in the Antarctic, seeking professional counseling online is both avoidant and redundant.

(New York Times)



POSTSCRIPT

SOMEONE FROM the US arrived

for an appointment in Jerusalem.

Upon arival at Ben-Gurion Airport,

and being rather ignorant about

Israel, he asked when the next flight

to Jerusalem was. He was told it

would be 10 a.m. the following day.



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An incubator graduate: Elam's Yoel Ganor with the electroluminescent fiber developed by his company.

Hothouses for success

Edible eating utensils, smart cards and fruit-picking

ormer Muscovite Josef Ziaman was 78 when he first approached the Haifa-based Eltam incubator with a plan for a system that would purify materials used in the diamond industry. Speaking only Russian and barely

able to communicate the complexity of his idea, his chances elsewhere would have been zero at his advanced age. But the incubator's management team researched the idea and discovered that while his product would have no practical use in diamond manufacturing, it could serve a vital role in the semiconductor industry.

That was in 1991. Today Zinman, who still puts in an eighthour day, is 84 and has founded his own company, Sizary Materials Purification Ltd. The company has \$5 million in investments from capital funds in Israel and the US, and anticipates another \$3m. Located in the Tefen industrial park, it employs 16 peochemical process that removes impurities from the silicon wafers used to make computer chips.

At present, Sizary is carrying out product testing for Mitsubishi Silicon America in the US, and next year should set up trials for two more international companies. Ilya Roitman, president and cofounder of Sizary, said he anticipates sales of \$1m. next year, \$5m. in 1999, and \$20m. in 2000. Zinman's story is not unusual

for the incubator program. Since its inception in 1991, 580 projects have been accepted into the program, in areas ranging from agriculture and health care to computers, electronics, biotechnology and cosmetics. Inventions are imaginative and diverse - edible eating utensils, robots that pick fruit, bone-injection guns and liquid heaters.

Though it's too early to gauge the long-term effects of the incubators, in the short term things look promising. Over 300 projects have already graduated from the program. Fiftysix percent of them are independent companies. Of these, 40% have found commercial investments and 20% are in negotiations or are living off sales. That leaves a failure rate of 40%. This may sound high, but compared to the US, where the failure rate after three years is 90%, the figure is impressive.

People from all over the world - even America - are coming to study our system," says program manager and founder Rina Pridor.

According to Pridor, the program was set up to fill a gap in Israeli R&D. While entrepreneurs with advanced ideas were given enormous support, less welldeveloped ideas were being abandoned because investors weren't prepared to take the risk. "We didn't want the good ideas to disappear, so the government decided to take this risk," says Pridor.

It was no coincidence, however, that the program began at the same time as the huge immigration wave from the former Soviet Union. An unprecedented number of highly skilled scientists, engineers and technicians flooded in, bringing with them many brilliant ideas but little knowledge of new technology or the free-market

есопоту. The incubator program requires that at least 50% of incubator staff be Russian immigrants. In practice, this figure is closer to 70%.

The program, which is supported by the Office of the Chief Scientist of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, started small - 50 projects with funding of \$1 million. There are now 213 projects in 26 incubators across the country from Karmiel to Dimona, and a total of \$80 million has been invested.

robots are just a few of the products hatched in technology incubators around the country, Nicky Blackburn reports Incubators are non-profit organi-

zations, and are set up under the auspices of local authorities, business or research institutes. Some are a mixture of all three. Highcaliber volunteers from industry, business and academia help advise prospective entrepreneurs. Each incubator has 10 to 20 projects on the go at a time, and new ones

join every year. Each project receives a two-year grant of up to \$340,000, and entrepreneurs are given premises, tools, guidance, administrative aid and even English or Hebrew lessons if necessary. "We do everything from strategic partners," says Lesley Anne Rubenstein, executive director of the Beersheba incubator, the Initiative Center of the Negev (ICN).

In return, the innovators develop a prototype of their idea. After two years, projects leave the incubator and continue alone, usually mobilizing government or private support to reach the next stage. While Pridor recognizes that sophisticated products take longer than two years to develop, she says: "We give them a chance to stand on their feet."

The incubators do not, however, offer easy cash. "We offer a sweet carrot, but there's a very hard stick," admits Pridor. "Just because you get approval, doesn't mean you can do hatever you want. You have to accept our discipline. We give timetables, demand reports, restrict budgets. If there's a difference of opinion, incubator management resolves it. This isn't easy for often-brilliant inventors who don't take orders or advice readily. We have to push them toward the nearest goal. They may have nine brilliant ideas and one unexciting one, but if this one is the most marketable then they have to concentrate on that first."

Engineers don't always consider the end users," agrees Rubenstein. They forget to take things out to the market because they want to add more functions. They don't stop to find out if people actually want these extra buttons."

ONE OF the incubator program's recent successes is Elam Ltd., a company which graduated from the Har Hotzvim incubator in Jerusalem last year, and expects sales of \$3 million by the end of the year. Elam has developed a revolutionary electroluminescent (EL) fiber, called Livewire, which looks like a cable and has the same versatility. It can be used in a wide range of applications from hazard lighting to safety jackets, signs and Christmas decorations. In two years, the company expects to be making over \$10 million a year.

Livewire was the brainchild of two Russian scientists, both doctors in semiconductor physics. On arrival in Israel, they took jobs as cleaners to make ends meet, but in 1992, their proposal for the EL fiber was accepted. In 1994, Inventech Investment Company and a private US investor funneled \$500,000 into the project. Two years later, another \$3 million investment was made.

Elam's stay at Har Hotzvim was particularly beneficial because it enjoyed the support of leading firms like Intel and AVX, which are housed in the same high-tech park.

"Our initial prototype was developed on Intel equipment," says Yoel Ganor, Elam's operations manager. It is no surprise, then, that many Elam staff worked at Intel before joining the company.

The incubator made it easier to find investors and to link up with the chief scientist," says Gapor, "We learned how to present ourselves and draw up a business plan."

"I see people who couldn't succeed without us. I watch as they develop an idea into a company within two to three years."

There are plenty of other success stories.

Elementrix Technologies Ltd., a graduate of the Eltam Technology Incubator (which was set up by Elron Electronics Industries and has now merged with the Technion's incubator in Haifa), was established to commercialize a breakthrough in the field of data encryption. The idea came from

Eli Yanovsky, a stubborn entrepreneur who lobbied industrial firms and venture-capital funds for five years before finally reaching an agreement with Eltam. Yanovsky has now left, but Elementrix has become a subsidiary of Elron. The company has nearly completed its product line and sales are scheduled to begin soon.

Nanomation left the Technion incubator at the start of the year to open a plant in Yokne'am. The company, which was set up in 1991, develops small linear motors that can be used in the tries. It is now negotiating several joint-venture agreements with international companies.

Adi Toister, Nanomation's controller, says the company's invention was more accurate, powerful and reliable than competing products. Last year the company saw sales of \$300,000. This year the figure is expected to rise to \$1.5 million, but more impressively Toister says he expects sales in 2000 to reach at least \$100 million. Other successes include Di-

Pharm Ltd., Nanonics Ltd. and Levitech Software Systems, all of which have left incubators to form promising companies.

In June. Pridor announced that in the next few years, the incubators would be reduced from 26 to about 20, mostly through mergers. The two main reasons are declining Russian immigration, and a leveling off of ideas. When the incubator program began it received thousands of ideas a year. Over the past three years that figure has stabilized at around 100 a year.

Pridor insists that this is not a failure on the part of the program. "In the past we received many applications which weren't workable. They were theoretical essays rather than business ideas. Today we get less, but the quality is higher.

BUT NOT everyone believes incubators are good for business. Some critics complain that there are too many start-up companies diverting resources from larger companies with more potential.

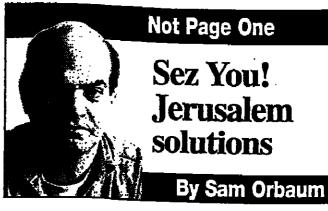
Pridor maintains that just the opposite is true. "People involved in the incubator program often wouldn't have had a chance to be absorbed or employed elsewhere," she says. "No one else would look at these

ing a recent two-page application. Venture capitalists want big business plans with figures and market predictions. They want projects close to capitalization in sexy fields like biomedicine, medicine, Internet and Intranet. They aren't risk oriented.

"I see people who couldn't succeed without us. I watch as they develop an idea into a company within two to three years. How many start-ups can boast that?" She adds that the incubators also

help create exports and jobs (most projects employ about five people), which in turn helps the economy. "The program definitely gives

Israel's high-tech industry a head start," says Uzia Galil, chairman and CEO of Elron. "By allowing entrepreneurs to develop their ideas, it gives the industry a chance to see what they have to offer."



Dut stone-throwers in the army. Disnify Jerusalem. Import WASPs.

The column on the haredization of Jerusalem provoked heat, hate and hats off. One Onhodox man from Petah Tikva resented the column "because, unfortunately, I have to agree with it."

Dan Odenheimer jumped on my words - as I knew somebody would - "...we Jerusalem taxpayers are getting squeezed. And like a pimple pinched from either side, eventually we're going to be forced out

"I thought it a bit odd," he writes, "that you compared yourself to pus, until I reread your article and realized just how obnoxious were your thoughts. But I still think it's unfair to include the rest of the Jerusalem taxpayers in your simile."

"Make a law like in China: one child only for each family, and give Jerusalem an additional name: The Chinatown of the Middle East." - Zoltan Green, Tel Aviv. On the other side of that coin is

this, from Burt Ravins: "That haredim observe more commandments than you or I, especially that to 'be fruitful and multiply,' they are better Jews than we are. That they do not send their kids to national service they are worse Jews than we are Please do not refer to them as if they were a 'tertium quid' in the composition

of Jerusalem."

She brings up another sticky Jerusalem issue: "It would be wonderful if 'Non-Jewish' [i.e. Arab] Jerusalemites who married a 'Non-Jewish' person from, oh, let's say, Ramallah, was able to automatically live together in Jerusalem. I can only imagine the column you would write if the Ministry of Interior told you that your folks in Ra'anana or Haifa would have to apply for a special permit to live with you. I can only imagine the second column you would write when you discovered that these requests for 'family reunification' are almost always

turned down." Award one point to Allison. You're right: it's a sneaky, immoral way of thinning out the

city's Arab population. "I, like many of my 'non-Jewish' friends, also long for the day when ' I can walk down Salah a-Din Street without having to confront hundreds of Border Police with billy clubs. Hey, Sam, when was the last time a soldier came up to you while you're sipping tea in a restaurant and demanded to check your ID? Bet it doesn't happen much on Emek Refaim.

Subtract one point from Allison. like many of my Jewish friends, long for the day we can walk down Salah a-Din Street (and in Bethlehem, Ramallah, etc.) without fearing hostile "Non-Jews." Your friends don't get stabbed,

The city could be sub-divided into arrondissements (districts) headed by democratically elected mayors. The mayor of Greater Jerusalem will be elected by his peers, alternating between a secular, a Moslem, a haredi and a Christian.

third party of ambiguous status." Burt added both a dig and a

attitude toward large Jewish families by making an offering to Efrat, the Society for the Encouragement of Childbirth for the Jewish People, POB 98109, Jerusalem 91060." (Make a note of that address,

Noralee Halpert, Tel Aviv: "If the haredim can throw rocks on Shabbat, they can serve in the army. No more exemptions.

Good idea there: conscript 'em into a rock-throwing brigade and put 'em into battle against likeminded Palestinians.

Claire Leefsma of Yokne'am Illit says to hell with the men, it's up to the women to improve matters. "I advise haredi women to stand up for their rights not to be perpetually pregnant, and to wear size 14 dresses from time to time if they want. This goes for Arab women too!"

She suggests her haredi sisters "entreat their husbands and sons to come home right after shul and thus refrain from breaking the Sixth Commandment (because stones can kill) and desecrating the Shabbat. As a result, Jewish policemen too could stay home or even go to shul themselves!" Jerusalemites Ruth and Max

Weiner are troubled by "the increasing theocratic power of the fundamentalist Orthodox in Jerusalem. With their religious commitment to multiplying, a solution in Jerusalem is a most formidable task." The root of the problem, they say, is not in Mea She'arim but nearby, on Knesset Hill: "the disproportionate power of minority groups like the fundamentalists, who use that power to chip away at the democratic rights

Yael Kagan Levy, of Petah Tikva, says it's cultural, and endemic to Israelis as a whole. The problem is a very, very deep one and it is called hutzpa. Maybe it comes from the histrionic European ancestry where just a 'hello' is a whole melodramatic escapade. Or the Sephardi ancestry which is harif in its own way. This country needs mega doses of WASPs: polite, stiff upper lip, never let 'em see you sweat.'"

With a million WASPs here, we'd behave better, for fear of what the goyim will say. "I have lately become an avid

reader of your column as I find your unique mixture of arrogance and ignorance amusing," Jerusalemite Allison Hodgkins writes. (Have I been insulted here, or complimented?) "However, I am writing to express my unqualified support for your plan to make Jerusalem an intra-national city.... I wholeheartedly support your desire to see three self-supervised cantons in Jerusalem."

I had to look that up: it means "a shot, incinerated or blown to bits

on Emek Refaim. On the other hand, I'd feel hostile plug: "I suggest you atone for your too if I was constantly hounded by soldiers and police - but the there only because of the hostility. It's a chicken-and-egg thing.

Among the more novel solutions to Jerusalem was Allison's proposed Jero-Disney. "The world's first theme park to celebrate monotheism in all its glory! Hezekiah's Flume, Mohammed's Midnight Ride (a dizzying spiral roller coaster that takes you from the rock of Abraham to the heavens ... and then back down!), Herod's House of Horrors, Mameluke Merry Go Round Farid's Falafel Ferris Wheel, Bouncing Bagel Bumper Boats" ... well, you get the idea.

More soberly, visiting French social sciences professor Wolfgang Freund offers this: "Being neither an Israeli nor a Palestinian, I feel nevertheless strongly committed to the Jerusalem issue. The Paris model should work in Jerusalem. The city could be sub-divided into arrondissements (districts) headed by democratically elected mayors. The mayor of Greater Jerusalem will be elected by his peers, alternating between a secular, a Moslem, a haredi and a Christian."

"As to the ultimate quandary: Jerusalem, capital of what? I say, the capital of both: Israel and the future Palestine - just like Mulhouse Airport that belongs to both France and Switzerland. But monsieur! No Frenchman nor Swiss would choose as his last

words: "If I forget thee, O Mulhouse...' To Mark Levinson of Herzliya,

the final say: "We Israelis have hoped the

Arabs would get along with us better as they gradually Westernized. Accordingly, we should give them not East Jerusalem, but West Jerusalem. The more Europeanstyle surroundings might have a pacific effect on their psychology as well as bringing the longdemanded improvement in their living conditions.

"At the same time, the dream of the secular yuppie Israeli has always been an authentic old-style Arab dwelling. The population of West Jerusalem can move into East Jerusalem and renovate it.

"This leaves only the haredim. They should switch off with the kibbutzniks. The kibbutzniks are embracing an urban lifestyle and giving up on farming, so let them live in town. The haredim may be better suited to the kibbutz, where they can enjoy plenty of room for their families, and be productive in agriculture, where having a large family is an advantage rather than a burden.

"Everybody wins."

And Mark should move to Jerusalem and become mayor.

Novelty in the Negev

Desert sand swirts down the streets as you controlled the streets as you tends Becreicha, and a general air of some tends bargs over the town. The surrounding inflictes are homen for the occasional Bedum encampiness. It's not the townstanced one assaily associates with custing edge technology.

But Becreicha is, in fact, home, to one of listed's first incabators, the individue Center of the Negev. In the sevent years it has been operating. To companies and 150 people have passed through its doorstand, only, two projects have failed.

The incubator was the idea of Albert Soffe, a US industrialist was half set up a high-tech company.

nichestralist who had set up a high-tech company in Isaal and was looking done way to insuduce attitude and was looking done attitude in the time. It like tage, 1960s; there were few jobs in the area, and even lower in high-tech. Even rewer to high test.

He emiliated the belo of Lesley Anne Rubenstein, a studion helivist who had been frying to stear the being drain at the university, and together they set in the incubator. Softs and three other business.

then provided seed capital of \$144,000.

They set up shop near the university in a building constructed in 1979 to accommodate high-tech companies. The building had planted 10 such buildings, but stopped after the first one because of lack of interest. Bu 1000 of lack of interest. By 1990, the building had

become a white elephant Shortly after Soffa's private initiative, the Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) set up Israel's official incubator program. ICN scon joined forces with the OCS, and for the first few years can two programs simultaneously the first for start-ups that didn't want to go through assist government procedures; the second for the OCS program.

The only twist is that the company is owned by

a non-profit organization, and any profits are rem-vested in the incubator? Rubenstein says.

Over the years, ICN companies have, achieved considerable commercial success. One of the first to join was Portiess, USCT Ltd., which has developed parented softwars and hardware to safeguard encrypted data, even over the laternet. Fortness which employs 15 engineers, began selling in 1994, and is now profitable. It has

ficensed its technology to SGS Thomson and Motorola. Fortress's managing director Ran Granot says the company has begun selling its technology to new customers, including several British universities and the Egged bus company.

Zeonetics R&D Ltd. joined ICN in January 1993, and moved to Ramle 18 months ago. Zeonetics has formed a parmership with a large Israeli concern to develop two ideas - a production process for zeolite ZSM-5 and a revolutionary catalytic converter for the automotive and chemical industries, which reduces exhaust fumes

The company was the brainchild of high-school dropout Meir Figuresi, who came up with an idea for developing an industrial filter while working in the US. Along the way, the filter became a catalytic converter and Fitonssi, who couldn't afford the zeolite needed to carry out his experiments, developed a method of synthesizing zeolite cheaply. The company, which has received capital of

nearly \$1 million, now hopes to establish a factory in Ramat Hovav. Ultrafine, a company which manufactures conductive coatings and metal powders for battery applications, was set up by Dr. Erust Khasin, a

Russian who made aliya in 1988. He approached ICN, and today, after over three years in the incubator. Ultrafine is setting up a pilot plant in Kfar ICN's newest arrival, Negev Exotics Ltd., uses a high-tech extraction process to make liquents, ice

frait called the marula grown in Australia and South A team of Israeli scientists, led by Prof. Joseph Mizrachi, developed a strain of marula which flourishes in the Negev and the company has

cream, candy, wine, jnice and cosmetics from a wild

raised a first round of financing. Robenstein has ambitious plans for the future. She wants to set up a for profit incubanc, which will be affiliated with ICN and located in Omer Park in the Negev. "Companies will have more independence. but they will still save money by sharing space says.
Rubenstein. - Nicky Blackburn

The long goodbye

RAYMOND CHANDLER: A Biography by Tom Hiney. New York, The Atlantic Monthly Press. 310 pp.

By R.W. B. Lewis

aymond Chandler, who died in 1959 at the age of 70, is the first mystery writer to be honored by the Library of America, which brought out two well-packed volumes of his work in 1995. They contain 13 of his short crime stories from Black Mask and elsewhere; the seven novels fea-turing Philip Marlowe, from The Big Sleep (1939) to Playback (1958); his 1944 screenplay for Double Indemnity, a group of his essays on the arts and misdirections of detective fiction, including "The Simple Art of Murder" (1944); and a selection of his letters, mostly mulling over the same phenomena.

These texts were edited knowledgeably by Frank MacShane, author of a solidly informative biography of Chandler two decades ago, and editor of Chandler's notebooks and correspondence. The Library of America publication recognized, by implication, the literary reality of crime writing at its most pungent, and it made the right choice for its representative. Of the three key figures in the "realistic" or "hard-boiled" vein of American mystery writing, Chandler is the one whose work has definitely settled on a high plateau of achievement. Dashiell Hammett is, of course, the great progenitor, and his contribution remains potent, but too often his narratives lurch off into wildest melodrama. Ross Macdonald, the heir apparent of Hammett and Chandler, was an elegant performer at times, with a detective, Lew Archer, of considerable appeal, but his plotting could get extraordinarily complex (Chandler, by contrast, despised plotting), and you needed paper and pencil at hand to chart the labyrinthine genealogies within which the crime's solution lay buried.

The new biography of Chandler by the English journalist Tom Hiney is therefore extremely timely and welcome. Hiney skillfully sorts out the successive phases of this sometimes troubled and muddled life. There were the early childhood years in a grim Chicago household, and then there was the long period in England (where his Irish-born mother took him after her divorce), from 1895, when Raymond was seven, to 1912, when he was 24. After a few years back in the United States, Chandler married Cissy Pascal, the irresistible former wife of a concert planist, herself almost 18 years older than Chandler. Chandler procured a job in the Los Angeles oil industry, and through the 1920s lived a life of big money, new cars, fast society, tremendous drinking and a deepening experience of the multi-nered Los Angeles area.

From this, luckily for us, Chandler was rescued by being fired for drunkenness and absenteeism. He took to writing crime stories, some of them first-class, for pulp magazines, and in his hand at a novel. The result was The Big Sleep, published when Chandler was 51. There followed Farewell, My Lovely (1940) and The High Window



Raymond Chandler. He took to writing crime stories after being fired for drunkenness and absenteeism.

(1942). In 1943, he began working for Paramount, consorting over the next years, to greater and lesser effect, with Billy Wilder and Alfred Hitchcock, writing an original script for The Blue Dahlia and watching his Marlowe novels being brought to the screen. Of these, the best is still The Big Sleep of 1946, with Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall (partly scripted by William Faulkner and directed by Howard Hawks), though its predecessor, Farewell, My Lovely - needlessly retitled Murder. My Sweet - with a transformed Dick Powell, is crisp, animated and eminently re-seeable.

After The Lady in the Lake (1943) and The Little Sister (1949) and delays and distractions, Chandler brought out The Long Goodbye (1954), his longest and literarily most ambitious - also, in Hiney's view, his most autobiographical - novel. In the same year, Cissy died at the age of 84. Until his own death in 1959, Chandler was almost continuously drunk. His final Marlowe novel, Playback, Hiney tells us, was entirely written while its author was drunk. Chandler was in and out of clinics and fell to making spur-of-themoment proposals of marriage to variit makes sorry reading.

Not surprisingly, Hiney is especially felicitous in recounting Chandler's all." The Marlowe who broods over biography.

English years, particularly the period from 1900 to 1904, when he was a day student at Dulwich College. Much of the data here can be found in Mr. MacShane's biography, but Hiney brings an attractive freshness and intimacy to the story. At Dulwich, Chandler absorbed ancient and modem languages and literature, played rugby, won prizes and came under the lasting influence of the 6-foot-5 headmaster, A. H. Gilkes, who crusaded with happy ferocity against all forms of pretentiousness. A part of Philip Marlowe's pretension-piercing character obviously derived from those schoolboy days, and it was only fitting that the detective should be named

after Dulwich's Marlowe House. No less impressive and illuminating is Hiney's discussion of the Marlowe novels, one by one. He subjects The Big Sleep and its successors to close critical scrutiny, treating them as the genuine and original literary products that they are. He notes that in the longer form, as against the short story, Chandler could "reduce the mystery element of his story in order to concentrate on atmosphere and character." Exactly so, but by no means an phase with definess and sympathy, but late. Again, The Big Sleep was not after all "about who had done what, so much as what Marlowe had made of it Hiney's thoughtful and finely rounded

the events, Hiney persuasively argues, is a stand-in for Chandler as he seeks to "explain his own eccentric reclusivity," his taste for alcohol, his twisty humor. As to Chandler's method of composition, Hiney remarks acutely that he sought to make each scene "self-contained and of interest in itself," and that he "placed an almost cinematic emphasis on strong scenes

over a strong structure." These admirable analyses fix Chandler's esthetic accomplishment in the language that becomes it. They do so, it must be added, within a somewhat hazy context that is, of the history of the detective-story genre in this century. It is never clear, at least to this reader, why it seems necessary to belittle the "traditional" detective story, as practiced in England by Agatha Christie, Dorothy L. Sayers and Margery Allingham, in order to salute the more tough-minded and (as may be) more richly textured American kind. Chandler - and here he is followed by his biographers regularly denounced Christie as 'bunk" and Sayers as trivial and affected, as though suffering from fits of Harold Bloomian anxiety of influence. But for some of us, it is possible in one mood to enjoy following Marlowe down those mean streets, and in another, more relaxed, mood to savor the clever deceptions and neatly choreographed denouement of a Christie whodunit.

Hiney is also a trifle hazy about some aspects of the American scene. He tellingly observes the enthusiasm of both English reviewers and literati for Chandler from the outset, but when he quotes Evelyn Waugh in the late 1940s proclaiming that Chandler was "the greatest living American novelist," he apparently fails to realize that this was a masterpiece of snidery, a put-down in the classic English manner - at one stroke sweeping away Faulkner, Hemingway, Steinbeck, Lewis and all the other American fiction writers then living.

Chandler knew all these writers: in his frequently grumpy way, he was exceedingly well read. An engaging literacy, no doubt going back to the Dulwich College classrooms, shows in some of his titles. The Lady in the Lake, with a change of preposition ("in" for "of"), comes from the Sir Walter Scott poem; The Long Goodbye has a distinct poetic ring; and Chandler's first title for what became Farewell, My Lovely was "The Second Murderer," a slyly abstruse reference to Richard III (I, iv).

Robert B. Parker followed suit with beautifully Shakespearean phrase Perchance to Dream as the title for his own Marlowe novel in 1991, a book presented as a sequel to The Big Sleep. Parker had previously taken over the manuscript of Poodle Springs (Chandler's private name for poodle-infested Palm Springs), of which Chandler had written only a few chapters before his death, and carried it to completion with commendable authority. Parker's two additions to the Marlowe canon are distinguished testimony to the ha cultural grip of Raymond Chandler. The same and more can be said of Tom (New York Times)

Backyard ecology

THIS PLACE ON EARTH: Home and the Practice of Permanence by Alan Thein Durning. Seattle, Sasquatch Books. 326 pp. \$22.95.

REFLECTED IN WATER: A Crisis of Social Responsibility by Colin Ward. London, Cassell. 147 pp. £12.99.

HYDROPOLITICS: Conflicts Over Water as a Development Constraint edited by Lief Ohlsson. London and New Jersey, Zed Books. 230 pp. \$25.

By Nachman Spiegel

s a Washington, D.C.-based activist, Alan Thein Durning toiled for years on behalf of environmental causes. These pursuits eventually took him to the Philippines, where he interviewed members of hill tribes about their livelihood. At one point an elder he met asked him to tell her about his "place." Unprepared for the query, Durning replied, "In America we have careers, not places." Though brief, the encounter turned out to be crucial for Durning. It heightened the uncomfortable, rootless feelings he shared with his wife about living in the inhospitable outskirts of the state capital. More centrally, it propelled Durning to wonder if locally based environmental efforts might in fact pack more clout than those that strive constantly for the bigtime sweep. "Greater rootedness," he muses, "might be the force that would defer us from eating our habitat alive."

Seattle, where Durning grew up, becomes the testing ground for seeing what role endur-ing bonds to a particular place may play in the preservation of its environmental resources. Fifteen years away don't erase either childhood memories or the sense of belonging. In terms of Durning's priorities as a shaper of environmental policies and awareness, these factors are secondary. What matters more is Seattle as a locale within that part of North America called the Pacific Northwest. "No part of the industrial world has as large a share of its ecosystems intact," says Durning. This is surprising given the extensive exploitation of the region's resources, which he chronicles.

Homeboy or not, this is more than another case of "not in my backyard" passion for the environment. There is no compelling imperative for the blunders made elsewhere to be repeated wherever the opportunity arises. Rather, there's a need to prevent these recurrences, through planning, organization and articulate response. His comments concerning the harmonious relationship between urban sprawl and increased reliance on private cars hit home. Only well-planned areas of urban population density will provide a suitable alternative to the Los Angelization of the world. The proviso applies no less to suburbs of Portland, Oregon or Seattle than it does to places in Israel such as Misgav, where those with the means take refuge from hectic Haifa, are totally dependent on their cars, and then go radically environmental whenever another

factory wants to set up shop next door.

Durning's success in helping to build an appreciable environmental coalition suggests that his idea about the worth of locally based efforts is right. It would have been no less so had he skipped the talk show type confessions about his vasectomy and its link to population growth.

COLIN WARD'S Reflected in Water: A Crisis of Social Responsibility also grapples with questions of limits and policy, particularly as they pertain to water as a basic human right and necessity. Ward feels that Thatcherism went overboard when it privatized water supply and thereby made a commodity of an item without which people cannot survive. As engineering firms and others likely to cash in begin increasingly clamoring for similar solutions to Israel's water problems. Ward's argument demands urgent attention. He notes that, in England, the call for restrained use was heeded to a greater extent before water became a commodity. Once it became another item for sale, unlimited use was no problem for those who could pay.

Ward goes well beyond England to cite other instances where government water policies resulted in problems much greater than those they were meant to solve. It is more than coincidental that Ward, like Durning, sees growing importance in locally based efforts to shape water policy by the people who stand to be. most affected by it. Such people, Ward acknowledges, may be powerless and thereby place the burden of protest elsewhere. In the case of China's catastrophic plans for a humongous dam on the Yangtze River, groups such as Probe International fight to prevent their implementation. They might not have any influence on Beijing but they can dam the flow of funding directed toward it from outside.

NEITHER EDITOR Lief Ohlsson nor the other geographically diverse contributors assembled in Hydropolicics: Conflicts Over Water as a Development Restraint seem to draw much optimism from technological or privatization panaceas. When it comes to looming worldwide water shortages, there is, however, a consensus that cooperative interdependence and use of resources will provide the only answers. "It will turn out to be a case of preserving the productivity and diversity of natural systems," writes Ohlsson, "precisely because this is the only viable way of safeguarding human welfare." In Rivers of Eden: The Struggle for Water and the Quest for Peace in the Middle East (Oxford, 1994), David Hillel also stressed the primacy of regional cooperation in dealing with the area's water problems. "To go on investing," he wrote, "in ever more elaborate schemes to meet the already excessive and ever-expanding demands without examining and attempting to moderate those demands will inevitably lead to economic, ecological and political crises."

STEIMATZKY'S BESTSELLING PAPERBACKS

- 1. Clinic by Jonathan Kellerman. Warner, Bantam.
- 2. Airframe by Michael Crichton.
- Arrow, Ballantine,
- English Patient by Michael Ondaatje. Vintage, Picador.
- 4. Laws of our Fathers by Scott Turow. Penguin.
- 5. Executive Orders by Tom Clancy. HarperCollins, Berkley.
- 6. Cauldron by Colin Forbes. Pan.
- 7. Third Twin by Ken Follett. Fawcett, Pan.
- 8. Icon by Frederick Forsyth. Bantam, Corgi.
- 9. Mortal Fear by Greg Iles. Coronet.
- 10.Next of Kin by Joanna Trollope. Black Swan.

BOOK BYTES

aniel Evan Weiss is a Dickey's part. Hart managed to young American novelist who cannot get his books published (or read) in America. All four of his works. including his latest, are published in Britain. Weiss is also a satirist, and a Jew. That combination has inspired him to write a lesson in American history The biography, to be published called The Swine's Wedding (Serpent's Tail). The themes of the book detailing a Jewish-WASP wedding, are the poisons of prejudice and complacency. Asked why he cannot find a US publisher, Weiss says, "i've got to say in all humbleness that I am a skillful writer. It's got to be something else that's bothering them."

IN HIS review of Tom Clancy's latest novel, SSN, the London Evening Standard's David hand bookshop. The book was Sexton mentioned that Clancy recently celebrated an unnumbered birthday. However, it must have been quite a milestene, because his wife surprised the bestselling author with a Sherman tank to mark the occasion. The tank is now parked on his lawn.

WHEN THE poet and novelist James Dickey died in January, his biographer Henry Hart was still in the throes of his research. According to Hart, Dickey's most notable novel Deliverance (in the film version of which the author played the sheriff) was not necessarily the only great tale he ever told. "He loved to embellish and invent," Hart recalls. "Dickey was trying to make his own life conform to 'an American ideal. He mythologized his life, treating it as a poem or a novel. He was making it up." For instance, Dickey never denied the myth that he was a decorated Korean War pilot. In fact, he was an airborne

radar observer. After much reluctance on spend a week with his subject before he died. He prepared a list of "500 to 600 questions. We worked for five or six hours every afternoon, going through them. He answered very generously and was bothered by noth-

by Picador, hasn't been titled yet, but Dickey, who defined poetry as "a creative lie." suggested his own title: "James Dickey: The World As a Lie."

ANOTHER PASSING. Helene Hanff, author of Eighty Four Charing Cross Road, died in New York in April at age 80. Hanff's charming book recorded her 20-year trans-Atlantic exchange of letters with the manager of a London secondreworked, first into a long-running West End stage production and later as a successful film.

Hanff once commented that the book was "no bestseller, it didn't make me rich and famous, but it got me hundreds of letters from people I never knew existed; it got me wonderful reviews; it restored my selfconfidence and it changed my life." She never married, preferring "always to be home alone."

THE WRITERS' Guild of America, East (WGAE), representing 3,400 professional writers, has established an On-line Script Registration Service (http://www.wgareg.org.). Members and nonmembers alike may now register screenplays, radio plays, scripts and other works directly over the Internet. Registration provides evidence of an author's claim to authorship and the date of completion. Most producers require scripts to be registered before they are considered.

David Brauner

HARDCOVER **Fiction**

1. Plum Island by Nelson DeMille. (Warner \$25.) A detective probes the murder of a Long Island couple who may have been involved in germ

Special Delivery by Danielle Steel (Delacorte S16.95) Romance comes to a mature

3. Fat Tuesday by Sandra Brown. (Warner \$24.) A cop turned outlaw and the wife of a sinister attorney go on a tear in New Orleans during Mardi Gras.

The Partner by John Grisham. (Doubleday \$26.95.) The search for \$90 million stoler by a Mississippi lawyer, believed dead, who is hiding in Brazil. 5. Up Island by Anne Rivers

Siddons. (HarperCollins S24.) An Atlanta woman, after a bad marriage and her mother's death, seeks a new life.

6. Chasing Cezanne by Peter Mayle. (Knopf \$23.) A photographer pursues a painting taken from a house in the south 7. London by Edward

Rutherlurd. (Crown \$25.95.) Two thousand years of life in Britain's capital as seen through the eyes of six families. 8. The Notebook by Nicholas

Sparks. (Warner \$16.95.) A World War II veteran meets an old flame who is about to be 9. The President's Daughter by Jack Higgins. (Putnam \$23.95.) The president of the US

copes with kidnappers who threaten to kill his child. 10. Pretend You Don't See Her by Mary Higgins Clark. (Simon & Schuster S25.) A chance witness to a murder is obliged to live anonymously to

HARDCOVER Non-fiction

1. Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt. (Scribner S24.) An Irish-American recalls his childhood

2. Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer, (Villard \$24,95.) A journalist's account of his ascent of Mount Everest in 1996, the deadliest season in history.

3. The Bible Code by Michael Drosnin. (Simon & Schuster \$25.) A journalist contends that important events have been predicted in the Bible. 4. The Perfect Storm by Sebastian Junger, (Norton, \$23.95.) An account of the

er of 1991, focusing on a crew of fishermen from Gloucester, Mass. 5. Brain Droppings by George Carlin. (Hyperion \$19,95.)

Comments on life and the ways of the world by the stand-up

6. The Gift of Fear by Gavin de Becker. (Little, Brown \$22.95.) Intuitive signals that can protect us from becoming the victims of

7. Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil by John Berendt (Random House \$23.) The mysterious death of a young man in Savannah, Ga.

8. Just As I Am by Billy Graham. (Harper SanFrancisco/Zondervan \$28.50.) The autobiography of the crusading preacher.

9. The Millionaire Next Door by Thomas J. Stanley and William D. Danko (Longstreet, \$22.) An analysis of the fives of wealthy Americans discloses that they have seven characteristics in common.

10. Conversations with God; Book 1 by Neale Donald Walsch. (Putnam \$19.95.) The author addresses questions of life and love, good and evil, guilt and sin.

PAPERBACK **Fiction**

BESTSELLERS

1. Songs in Ordinary Time by Mary McGarry Morris. (Penguin \$13.95.) A divorced woman and her three children, summering in Vermont in 1960, are menaced by

2. The Deep End of the Ocean by Jacquetyn Mitchard. (Signet \$7.50.) The disappearance of a three year-old brings a family anguish and redemption.

The Clayborne Brides: Parts 1-2 by Julie Garwood. (Pocket \$2.99 each.) "One Pink Rose" and "One White Rose" relate the 19thcentury romantic adventures of three

4. Exclusive by Sandra Brown. (Warner Vision \$7.50.) Should a television reporter broadcast the secrets confided to her by the first

5. Demon Seed by Dean Koontz (Berkley \$7.50.) Obsessive desire for complete privacy is threatened by the ultimate computer.

6. Malice by Danielle Steel. (Dell \$7.50.) A woman struggles to overcome memories of betrayals

7. Prayers for the Dead by Faye Kellerman. (Avon S6.99.) Peter Decker and Rita Lazarus n pursuit of the murderer of a amous surgeon.

 The Runaway Jury by John Grisham. (Island/Dell 57.99.) A woman in a Mississippi Gulf Coast town sues a tobacco company for causing her husband's death.

9. The Fourth Estate by Jeffery Archer. (Harper Paperbacks, \$7.50.) An Australian and a refugee from Nazism vie to become the world's most powerful press lord.

10. Memnoch the Devil. by Anne Rice. (Ballantine, \$7.99.) The vampire Lestat is snatched from the world by an adversary who claims to be the Devil.

PAPERBACK Non-fiction

1. The Heart of a Woman by Maya Angelou. (Bantam \$12.) Volume 4 of the poet's autobiography

2. Undaunted Courage by Stephen E. Ambrose. (Touchstone/S&S \$16.) The story of how Thomas Jefferson sponsored Lewis and Clark.

3. Emotional Intelligence by Daniel Coleman. (Bantam \$13.95.) Factors other than IQ hat contribute to a successful

4. Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer. (Anchor/Doubleday \$12.95.) The story of a young man whose obsession with the wilderness had a tragic end in

5. The Color of Water by James McBride. (Riverhe \$12.) A black writer and musician recalls his experiences growing up with his white mother in a Brooklyn housing

A Civil Action by Jonathan Harr. (Vintage \$13.)
Householders sue industrial
polluters.

7. Reviving Ophelia by Mary Pipher. (Ballantine \$12.50.) The everyday dangers that beset teenage girls.

8. Sportaneous Healing by Andrew Weil. (Fawcett \$12.95.) How the body heals itself.

9. How Could You Do That? by Laura Schlessinger. (Harper Perennial \$13.) Self-indulgent morality, and ways to

10. The Dilbert Principle by Scott Adams. (Harper Business \$11.95.) A satirical look in words and carbons at the folibles of

PAPERBACK Miscellaneous

1. Don't Sweat the Small Stuff _ and it's All Small Stuff by Richard Carlson. (Hyperion \$8.95.) How to enjoy life much more and contribute to the world we live in.

Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul compiled by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen and Kimberty Kirberger.(Health Communications \$12.95.) Inspiration.

3. Chicken Soup for the Woman's Soul compiled by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Jenniter Read Hawthome, and Marci Shimoff. (Health Communications \$12.95.) Inspiration. 大学を

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4. Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution by Robert C. Atkins. (Avon \$6.50.) Ways to lose weight and achieve a healthy body.

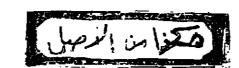
HARDCOVER Miscellaneous

1. Simple Abundance by Sarah Ban Breathnach. (Warner \$17.95.) Advice for women ing to improve themselves.

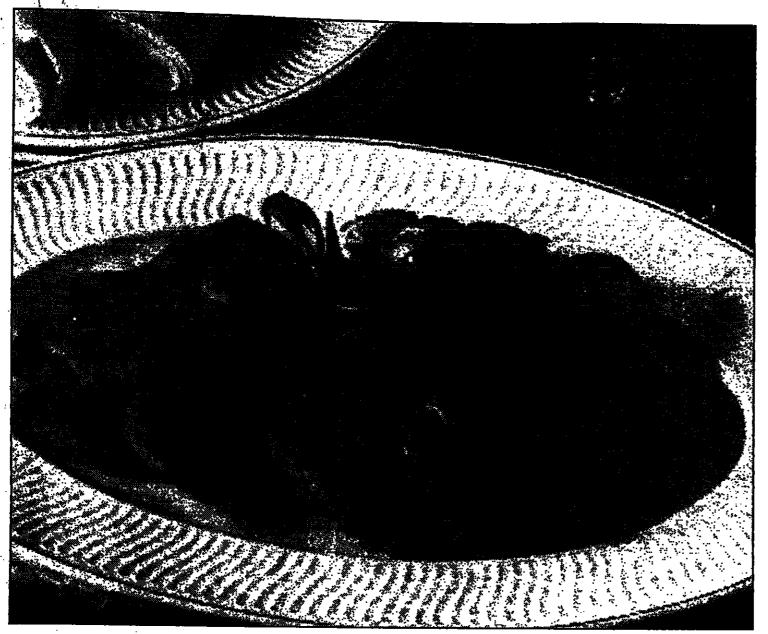
Eight Weeks to Optimum Health by Andrew Weil. (Knopf \$23.) A physician's diet, exercise and psychological program.

3. Kids Are Punny (Warner \$10.) A collection of jokes submitted by children to *The* Rosie O'Donnell Show.

. Mars and Venus on a Date by John Gray. (HarperCollins \$25.) Steps to take to achieve a lasting, loving relationship.



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A LA CARTE **Before the Guillotine**

By DANIEL ROGOV

n three days, 55 million French Limen and women will be celebrating Bastille Day, the anniversary of the onset of the French Revolution in 1789. With the exception of Marie Antoinette's most untimely remark about letting the hungry masses of Paris eat brioche (not cake as most people think), historians have tended to ignore the role of food in the rench Revolution.

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Nearly everyone who lives in France is quite certain, for example, that the revolution started out n attempt to relieve the barbaric conditions of the prisoners at the prison known as the Bastille. It is commonly and incorrectly believed that the prisoners in the Bastille were forced by the regime to live on a near-starvation diet.

The truth is that life in the Bastille was not all that difficult. In fact, for many of those residing there, the Bastille may have been one of the best pre-revolutionary restaurants of Paris. During his own stay there, for example, the Marquis de Sade passed his time washing down truffled sausages with fine Bordeaux wines. On the day the Bastille was actually liberated, there were only six prisoners in attendance.

On the day the Bastille was stormed, one prisoner, imprisoned for failure to pay his debts, insisted on staying in his three-room suite long enough to finish his roast pheasant dinner. Another demanded that the crowd help him carry away the more than 50 bottles of wine that he had set aside for his use.

In fact, when the crowd tore down the Bastille, they were unknowingly carrying out a plan for which Louis XVI already had set aside funds. In what may be another interesting footnote to history, of the six liberated prisoners, three were eventually executed by believed in was the guillotine, ka, salt, and pepper.

the same people who freed them, two emigrated to America and one, Andre Dubois, barmless but quite insane, went on to become a member of the French senate.

French gastronomes of all classes were concerned with the influence of the revolution on their dining habits. Grimod de la Reyniere, a well-known banker and gastronome of the ancien regime, considered the revolution little more than an unpleasant interlude when austerity had to be sim-ulated and chefs given their notice. If it had lasted," he wrote, "France might have actually lost the recipe for fricassed chicken."

One of Grimod's chefs. Antoine Broissard, took it a bit more seriously. When Broissard discovered that he could not locate any Nantes ducklings to serve for dinner one evening, he hanged himself in his kitchen.

Many of France's most devoted gourmets ended both their revolutionary zeal and their gastronomic endeavours by a meeting with the falling blade of the guillotine. It may be of some historic interest to know what some of them are just before keeping their appointment with the Widow, as the guillotine was known.

Georges-Jacques Danton, surely the most charming of the revolutionaries and a great gourmet, dined on stuffed squab, fresh asparagus, and raspberry sorbet before his execution. Robespierre, Danton's rival but not a man who especially appreciated good food, supped on a thick lentil soup just before his own moment of truth. The Duke of Burgundy dined elegantly on salmon mousse and apple pie, while Armond, the Prince of Conde, had a light snack

of salmon in mousseline sauce. As to the women, the only form of equality between the sexes that the legislators of the revolution

which decapitated members of either sex with equal dispatch. Marie Amomette, Madame Roland.

partice Amongene, Wadame Roland, and Charlotte Corday, the three most carried a women of the revolunteer secretary and a secretary as much secretary and the revolution of the taken off to her final humiliation. The 25-year-old Charlotte Corday, who had slain the revolutionary leader Marat, declined a final dinner but nibbled on a chocolate eclair while standing on the platform of the guillotine, a the executioner somewhat because of what he considered an unnecessary delay in carrying out his duty. Madame Roland, the feminist of the group, dined simply on poached eggs, a small wedge of Brie cheese, and an apple.

Madame du Barry, the last great courtesan of the royal days, and a woman of elevated taste in food as well as in lovers, is said to have dined on raspberries with fresh cream before being carted off to the guillotine. Du Barry's final words were: "I have lived all my life in the name of good taste. Now I am to die by the hands of people of bad taste."

The recipes that follow were dedicated by various chefs to those they considered revolutionary heroes.

COTES DE VEAU GEORGES-JACQUES DANTON

12 thin yeal cutlets 2 Tbsp. paprika salt and pepper to taste 1/2 cup butter or parve substitute 450 gr. mushrooms, sliced

11/2 cups sweet cream or parve

Sprinkle the cutlets with papri-

all the cutlets melt half of the but ter and in this fry the cuitets. Add more butter only if the skillet. becomes dry. Fry until nearly

done, turning several times. When the cutlets are nearly done add the sliced mushrooms and continue cooking on a low flame, adding more butter if necessary, until the cutlets are done. Transfer the cutlets to a preheated serving

To the skillet, add the remaining butter and the cream. Heat, stirring constantly, until the mixture is simmering and then pour over the meat.

SORBET DU BARRY

11/2 kg. bananas, cut in chunks 2 small pineapples, cut in chunks (may substitute tinned

pineapple chunks) 2 oranges, peeled and cut in

sections 2 lemons, peeled and cut in

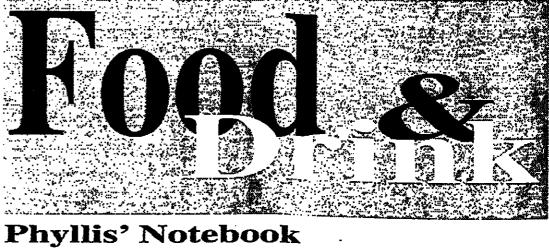
sections I cup sugar 2 Tbsp. lemon juice 1 egg white

Puree the fruits, sugar, and lemon juice in a blender or food processor, adding more sugar to taste if necessary.

Transfer the puree to a large, flat metal dish and freeze until nearly solid.

Remove from the freezer and beat the mixture until fluffy. Add the egg white and beat for I minute longer, Return to the freezer. Once again, remove from the freezer before the mixture is solid and beat well.

Transfer to an ice-cream mold or individual dessert glasses, return to the freezer, and freeze solid. Transfer the sorbet to the regular refrigeration compartment about 15 minutes before serving. (Serves



By PHYLLIS GLAZER

s the summer heat confounds Aus, most of us would rather not be in the kitchen. One way to make your stay in the kitchen shorter is by concentrating on salads. Another way is by using a wok. Wok cooking is fast and easy - if you know how to do it correctly.

Wok is a Cantonese word for a pot designed especially for the sliding and flipping movements of stirfrying. A round-bottomed wok the traditional shape – is designed for cooking over gas, since propane gas was the cooking fuel in China. Stir-frying was developed in China in response to the price of fuel; the technique of short, rapid cooking over high heat uses a minimum amount of oil.

Incidentally, stir-frying isn't the only thing you can do with a wok. Steaming or reheating foods in a bamboo steamer basket over a liquid filled wok is amazingly fast, fragrant, and infinitely tastier than

using a microwave. Flat-bottomed woks, which can

be used on gas or electric stoves,

some wok aficionados claim you can't do true stir-frying in them. my flat-bottomed wok is probably the most frequently used pot in my kitchen. Electric woks, however, are a different story; they are inappropriate for stir-frying, but are good for steaming or deep frying if the heat range is hot enough.

Wok Around the Clock

Woks come in all different kinds of material: stainless steel with copper bottoms, iron, aluminum, and tempered steel. The best wok for cooking is the traditional Chinese steel wok, though some food experts, like Craig Clairborne, prefer iron. Don't be surprised if it blackens with use, however. The better the patina, the easier it will be to cook in and clean it.

Woks range in sizes from 30 to 60 cm., the biggest for restaurant use. The 36-cm. wok is probably the most popular and useful size. You can also find them with a wooden handle, two metal handles,

and with small ear-shaped handles. Don't expect your wok-cooked foods to taste just like those in a good Chinese restaurant. The home heat source is roughly half

are also popular today. Although as strong as that found in a typical restaurant. Higher heat more effectively seals in the juices of the ingredients, locking in more flavor and nutrients, and makes the sauce cling better. Foods will also be more crisp since the higher heat firms the surface of the

> overcooked. The higher heat makes the chemical reaction that heightens the color of the vegetables work more effectively, so the restaurant's food also may look better than yours.

food before the inside becomes

Seasoning a wok is vital to suc-cessful wok-cooking. If it is new, wash it well with soap, dry completely, and use a paper towel to rub the inside with any regular oil. Repeat rubbing with clean paper towels until the toweling comes away clean. Then bake it in a 190°C oven or place it over high

heat on the stove till it is fully dry. To clean it after use, rinse with hot water using no or little detergent, rub it with a bamboo brush or nylon pad, and dry immediately over the stove. Let it cool, rub lightly with oil, and store.

Rogov's Shopping Basket Litchis and Other Summer Fruits

By DANEEL ROGOV

When it was first cultivated in China, nearly 5,000 years ago, the litchi was considered a fruit so delicate and rare that it was served only in the homes of the extraordinarily wealthy.

Nearly 1,000 years ago, under the rule of the Song Dynasty, hunplanted with litchis and the fruit was soon available to nearly all Chinese. If its delicate taste was not enough to make it popular, the fact that many believed the fruit to be an aphrodisiac was useful in making it universally adored.

Even though it is not truly an aphrodisiac, litchis, which are now cultivated extensively in China, India and the Philippines, are extremely popular throughout the Far East. Litchis have also become popular in the West where, until recently, they were available only in tins. Several years ago, litchi shrubs were imported into Israel from China and fresh litchis are now readily available at local greengrocers.

The litchi looks like a large berry, about the size of a cherry. The thin, hard shell, which is green at first, then pink, and finally red when the fruit is ripe, comes away easily from the fruit, which is white, sweet, and musky in flavor. Far tastier than those that come in tins, the fruit makes a delicious treat when eaten plain, much as one would cherries, or as an addition to mixed fruit salads. Many also find that litchis make excellent accompaniments to cooked chicken or fish dishes. especially those that are served with a sweet sauce.

To make litchi marmalade, remove the shells and seeds from 1 1/4 kg. of litchis. Place these in a saucepan and pour over 1 1/2 cups of water. Bring the mixture to a boil, reduce the flame, and simmer gently for about 10 minutes. Put through a sieve and measure the remaining mixture. For every cup, add 1 cup of sugar and, mixing constantly, simmer until the mixture thickens. Store in wellsealed sterile jars.

Those who want to try this very special fruit should be aware that the litchi season is a short one and will last only another month.

Fruits

Advice About Other Summer

· Peaches, nectarines and apricots should be firm but not hard. free of blemishes, and covered with skin that is smooth and unwrinkled. They should have a good color when they are bought and should not have any soft spots or black patches on them.

They also should have a pleasant aroma. Do not buy green peaches or apricots because they will not ripen and will soon lose their flavour.

 Cherries and grapes should be firm even when they are ready to eat. Do not buy cherries or grapes if they are mushy or have wrinkled skin because they are probably far too old to give any pleasure.

· When you buy a watermelon, entirely on dishes that are more or



ask the greengrocer to cut a small triangle from the melon so that you can taste it. If the watermelon is not ripe enough, too ripe, or too sour, ask for another one. A greengrocer who will not let you taste the watermelon you are buying is not worth returning to.

When you have finished eating your watermelon do not throw away the rind but clean it and make watermelon pickles.

 With the exception of watermelons, melons, and litchis, nearly all fruits should be washed before serving or using in a recipe. Do not, however, wash fruits until shortly before ready to use them because washing makes them spoil more rapidly.

When serving fruits for dessert they should always be well chilled. Cherries and grapes can be stored in the refrigerator for up to a week without spoiling; peaches and apricots refrigerate well for four or five days if they are ripe when purchased; and a watermelon can be stored for up to two weeks.

Once a melon or watermelon has been cut, cover the surface with plastic wrap to keep it fresh. Never freeze fresh, uncooked fruits as this will destroy their texture and taste.

• If you find that the apricots or peaches you purchased lack flavor, do not despair, but serve them with fresh lemon or use them to make a compote. To do this peel the fruits and remove the pits. Soak every 1/4 kg. of fruit in 6 cups of water for about 1/2 hour and then bring to a boil. Add 3/4 cup sugar and 2 Tbsp. of lemon juice, stir well, lower the flame, and let simmer gently until the fruits are completely tender (about 30 minutes). Refrigerate, covered, and serve cold with the liquids as a first course or dessert.

 When cooking keep in mind that any recipe calling for peaches can also be made with apricots.

Tips for Gastronomes

In the three years in which Marie Antoinette has been open, it has become increasingly evident that David Lazar is one of those chefs who enjoys playful experimenta-tion in his kitchen and loves nothing more than sending out happy culinary surprises to those who visit his restaurant. It also has become apparent that Lazar adores berries so much that they appear in nearly half of the dishes on his menu.

During a recent visit, I focused

less new to the menu. My first course, a "tartar of avocado," consisted of small, gently seasoned cubes of avocado that have been sprinkled over with just the right amount of lemon juice, placed in a mold, and inverted onto a large serving plate over paper-thin lemon slices.

What converted this simple, but excellent offering into a dish to be deeply admired was that on the same plate were six perfectly cooked shrimps in a pale, exquisite cream sauce that was absolutely exploding with flavor. Continuing on the theme of

shrimps, I sampled another first course, this one of shrimps that had been placed on skewers together with slices of green and red peppers, cherry tomatoes, and onion. Coated with a just-sweetenough sauce that I believe contained honey and soy sauce, and sprinkled with sesame seeds after having been grilled, the dish was a marvelously tasty fusion of French, Mediterranean, and Far-Eastern cuisines. The 1995 Gewurtztraminer wine

of Concha y Toro was perfect with both dishes.

I continued with a pork dish made elegant by its simplicity. The dish consisted of thick, round, well-seasoned slices of pork fillet that had been grilled until almost crisp on the exterior but retained just a hint of pink on the interior. The chef's choice of a berry sauce that was almost as thick as a puree could not have been better, the pronounced flavors of the sweet-sour berries proving a perfect marriage to the juicy, finely textured meat.

The greeting one receives on entering is genuinely warm, the service is friendly and efficient, the wine list is well thought out and the decor is intelligently simple - the stylized wood donkeys. elephants, and giraffes standing on the tables cannot help but bring a smile to the face.

The food, regardless of whether one selects the playful or the more "serious" choices, is excellent, the portions are generous, and it is apparent that the restaurant goes from strength to strength. The average bill, of about NIS 250 per couple (not including wine), represents excellent value for money. Marie Antoinette: 6 Rehov Florentine, Tel Aviv. Open Monday-Friday from 7 p.m. to midnight and on Friday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tel. (03) 682-3403

Wine Cellar

Appealing and Easy to Drink

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So Partager Blanc, n. Simple but pleasant, reliable and easy to drink, this wine good value at NIS 26.

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and herbs NIS 70 and 60 respectively

eserving drinking. Good value. 80 Bordeaux, 1725 Series, 1995: Made from 55% Cabernet Sanwignon and 45% Meriot grapes this nice wine but a light but pleasant bouquet and just enough tennio to make it inter-

esting. Not inexpensive at NIS 80. Partager, Rouge, stonyinlage: Categorized as a vin the table, this quite drinkable red wine has an attractive color and espectively

83 Coies do Rhone 95 This is about NIS 30, this wipe will

wine lacks richness of flavor. Overpriced at NIS 45. 1.1.801.1

Whites 81+ Chardonnay, Vin de Pays d'Oc. 1995: This unoaked, refreshing wine has an auractive bouquet of apples, peaches, and meion, NIS 35. 80 Bordeaux Blanc, 1725

Series 1995: This unoaked medium-bodied wine is grassy and has plenty of fruits in its aromas and flavors. About NIS 80 Partager Blanc, n.v.:

and easy to drink, this wine is 72 Blanc de Blancs, 1994: ago: Alas, such wines should be

drank young and it is now flat and lifeless. Not recommended







BAZAAR

From the Guy Laroche collection

French chic and pampering in TA

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

he shops on Tel Aviv's Rehov Dizengoff are gorgeous, but mostly empty lately. Even sales are not tempting people to readily part with their money. Some say the political uncertainties are being reflected in the marketplace, but the generally uninspiring fashion is reinforcing any other reasons for the reluctance to buy.

Given this, it took a lot of courage for Ronit and Mickey Mor and Patrick Malek to open Premier, located on the premises of the former Sukiyaki restaurant.

Premier, which is the exclusive Israeli representative for Guy Laroche clothing and accessories, also stocks accessories from other luxury labels such as Nina Ricci, Chloe, Christian Dior and Cerruti 1881.

around Israel for several years and can be working for one of America's leading suit jackets and the splendid cut of the found in upmarket outlets all over the designers, Geoffrey Beene. country, but Guy Laroche has been brought in only sporadically by private importers.

The exciting thing about Guy Laroche is that the company's recently appointed creativity manager is Shenkar graduate Albert Elbaz.

A former resident of Holon, Elbaz, 35 who wasn't born when Guy Laroche launched his fashion house in 1957 flew home a couple of months ago for the official opening of Premier and will

probably return for major showings. As yet, none of the clothes in the store are of his design, but the upcoming fall/winter collection will definitely

include his input.

The latter brands have been floating several years in New York, most of them finished buttonholes on the sleeves of

Notwithstanding the enviable achievements of fellow expatriate Israelis such as Elie Tahari and the Nakash brothers, Elbaz can arguably be called the most successful of all Israeli designers. Fashion-conscious locals are certainly waiting with bated breath for the new season's collections to see his impact on men's and ladies' fashions.

But even before Elbaz, Guy Laroche clothing merited a second look, particularly by people who value quality as much as style. The sample items on view at Premier's triple-story salon are cleanlined, uncluttered and unmistakenly stamped with French chic.

Personally, I was more taken with the Before moving to Paris, Elbaz spent menswear lines, especially the elegantly shirts. But I was assured that I will be equally enchanted by the less conservative women's garments, which should be in stock by late August.

Even if one is "just looking," a visit to Premier is worthwhile, if for no other reason than to experience a very un-Israeli attitude to customer service. Sofas are provided for accompanying relatives or friends who are waiting for the purchaser to make a selection and light refreshments are provided for bona-fide customers and their escorts.

Tiny extras perhaps, but they make a big difference.

By the way you don't have to be rich to shop at Premier. Although suits and dresses are priced in excess of NIS 2,000, prices for accessories start at under NIS 100.

Eaters, beware!

By SUZAIME ROSTLER

Thile the US is believed to have the world's most stringent laws when it comes to food safety, more Americans than ever before are suffering from foodborne diseases, health experts say.

Salmonella, E. coli and cyclospora are just some of the pathogens that have turned up recently in the US food supply, causing everything from mild stomach cramps to chronic liver disease, paralysis and even death. The incidents have called attention to a rise in the number and severity of food-related illnesses over the past 20 years, prompting new federal food safety initiatives designed to halt the surge.

Food poisoning is not just a beliyache anymore," Caroline Smith DeWaal, director of food safety with the private consumer health group Centers for Science in the Public Interest said. Bacteria and pathogens are tougher and stronger and they are surviving efforts to kill them."

Some scientists deny that the US food supply has become more contaminated, or that enforcement is lax. Rather, better laboratory techniques for identifying

city health department that decides which regulations to adopt and how to enforce them. The result can be a lack of uniformity that leaves consumers in some areas vulnerable to bacteria and disease.

"It is very random." said CSPI's Elizabeth Dahl, who led a national survey last year on food

safety in restaurants. "[Food safety] depends on what county, city or state you happen to live in, how well the local department is funded, and which standards it chooses to enforce."

The FDA's Madden agreed that limited resources can mean fewer restaurant inspections but he said most health departments adopt the entire code or the major portions.

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Still, three years after the widely publicized deaths of three children from eating hamburgers contaminated by E. coli at a national restaurant chain, a third of health departments surveyed did not set a minimum cooking standard for ground beef. Only only 31 percent enforced the recommended cooking temperature for pork, while 89 percent did not follow the FDA's advice on refrigerator temperatures.

"Food poisoning is not just a bellyache anymore. Bacteria and pathogens are tougher and stronger and they are surviving efforts to kill them."

foodborne diseases have fostered the illusion that the number is on

"If doctors know cyclospora is out there they will ask for the test," Marta Ackers, a medical epidemiologist with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said. "It is always hard to tell if we are seeing more of something or if surveillance has increased.

Better detection may be part of the story, but increased food imports, more frequent restaurant dining and greater use of animal antibiotics are also to blame. Scientists say several of the bacteria that infect farm animals have become resistant to certain antibiotics. When these organisms infect humans, they are harder to fight because of their acquired resistance.

"An infection a physician would have treated with an antibiotic in the past may not respond today," Joseph Madden, a microbiologist with the Food and Drug Administration, said.

Other health experts blame the trend on a steady increase in restaurant dining, exposing more Americans to contaminated food more often. CSPI said 46 percent of all food dollars were spent in restaurants in 1993, up from 27 percent in 1960.

*Consumers are eating out more than ever before and they are relying on restaurants to control the safety of their food," Smith DeWaal said.

That is precisely what worries health experts, who charge that inspection and enforcement standards are lax.

While the FDA issues safety recommendations every two years addressing everything from cooking temperatures to hand washing, it is the state, county or

"The enforcement of basic food safety requirements should not be optional," Smith DeWaal said. Consumers are paying for lax enforcement with unacceptably high

numbers of foodborne illnesses. The private Council for Agricultural Science and Technology says as many as 33 million foodborne illnesses occur each year and up to 9,000 people die as a result.

Medical and productivity costs associated with foodborne diseases range from \$6.5 billion to \$35b. a year, Tanya Roberts, an economist with the US. Department of Agriculture, said. We are no longer going to the pathogens, the pathogens are coming to us," she said, adding that food imports allow contaminants to spread swiftly from one country to another.

Just one infected food handler could transmit bacteria to thousands of people across the globe, as was seen this year when 236 people in the US contracted hepatitis A and thousands of others became sick after eating contaminated strawberries from

Economic and human costs associated with food-related illnesses have spotlighted the need for more effective safety procedures on all fronts. In January, President Bill Clinton asked Congress to earmark \$43 million towards a national food safety initiative that would reinforce existing food safety programs and allow health experts to identify outbreaks early.

About \$23 million will be used to upgrade FDA inspection, research and risk assessment. facilities for seafood. The USDA will use \$8.5 million for similar meat and poultry programs.

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CAVEAT EMPTOR!

Prize fight

By RUTHEE BLUM

ast year. I wrote about one of my particular pet peeves: the wooing of consumers through advertising gimmicks aimed at children. Clearly I am not alone in my

irritation at such marketing since the Consumer Protection Law dedicates a whole chapter to this very subject. And though, technically, seducing us via our offspring is against the law in this country, the "gray" area regarding what constitutes violating this law seems to be so vast as to make the whole thing pretty ridiculous.

Anyone with children must surely be suffering from the Coke-cap scam. Even geniuses in child-rearing are likely to be having a tough time withstanding their children's pleading glances on a grocery shopping trip. Particularly when the kids swear that they only want the product because they crave its

And so it was for H.B., who was visiting Israel with his three young sons. At a kiosk at one of the Dead Sea spas, H.B. purchased a bag of Elite potato chips - one of those bags of potato chips with the shiny ribbon attached to the outside, enticing the consumer with the

lure of hidden cash. Lo and behold, while munch-

ing away at the snack, H.B.'s son actually came across a voucher for NIS 20! So rare an event was this that even the owner of the kiosk was taken aback. And since H.B. was unable to read the fine print in Hebrew, no less — the kiosk owner was kind enough to translate it for him. What the voucher stated was

that the cash could be obtained either from a postal bank, or from any number of Elite shops (the locations of which were listed on the back). The next day, while strolling along Jerusalem's Ben-Yehuda

pedestrian mall, H.B. came across an Elite shop. In he traipsed — his three young lads in tow — to collect his cash.

"Sorry, not in here" was the response of the saleswoman. "Try in our shop on Jaffa Road."

So H.B. continued on his trek in the blazing heat, to show his children that grown-ups mean what they say, even when they are marketing moguls. To no avail. H.B. was greeted by a similar "not in here" response from the Jaffa Road saleswoman as well.

Oh well, thought H.B., trying not to despair, other Elite shops will turn up.

Indeed, en route to Cairo the next day, H.B. ran smack into an Elite shop in Ben-Gurion Airport. Here again, however, the saleswoman gave a curt: "not in here," and sent him to another Elite shop in the airport. Obediently, H.B. went on to the next, much larger, shop.
The saleswoman's

response: "Not in here" was followed by "Stop wasting my time!" when he asked if she could assist him in his search. And this is in spite of the fact that the voucher specifically lists Ben-Gurion Airport as one of the collection points (though you practically need a magnifying glass to decipher this).

H.B. was outraged on behalf

of his children. "It's bad enough. that not a single Elite employee bothered to say 'congratulations' to the kids for having won the prize.

But to be treated rudely, all because we were trying to locate the right place to be given the money, that was just inexcusable."

Gidi Landsberger, Elite marproducts' division, agreed that Good news indeed. there is no excuse for rudeness on the part of Elite employees, customers.

Expressing my personal 91000 Jerusalem.

indignation - more as the mother of four prize-hungry kids than as a consumer columnist - I extracted a promise, from Mr. Landsberger that a memo would be distributed among all Elite salespeople insisting that they exhibit gracious behavior, especially towards young children.

After all — I raised my voice

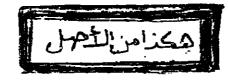
to a shrill pitch — children are the target of all of these marketing maneuvers. And when their business is

being courted, butter wouldn't melt in the mouth of the marketers. I just want to make sure that the same sugary sweetness is applied after the sought-after shekels have been handed over. Mr. Landsberger gave his word.

He also sent a 20-shekel note to the hotel room of H.B. and his family, along with a letter of apology and a parcel of Elite products of the savory-treat variety_

"Whenever a customer complains," said Landsberger, "we investigate the complaint, and keting manager in the savory compensate the consumer."

You are invited to offer perwhom he claims are given strict sonal stories about goods and instructions to be courteous to services in this country. Write to: Ruthie Blum, POB 81,



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BUSINESS

in brief

Korean delegation due Saturday

A delegation of senior officials from South Korea's Ministry of Industry, Trade and Energy will arrive here on Saturday for a four-day visit, the Industry and Trade Ministry announced yester-day. The 13-member delegation, which will be headed by Man-Gi Paik, director-general of South Korea's technology policy bureau, will explore joint venture possibilities in the energy and technology sectors. Other participants include the director of the Samsung Advanced Institute of Technology, oil corporation. Caltex, the Korean Electric Power Corporation and representatives of LG, a large Korean conglomerate. Jennifer Friedlin

Kleiner to head coalition at finance committee

MK Michael Kleiner (Gesher) has been appointed to replace Silvan Shalom (Likud) as the leader of the government group in the Knesset Finance Committee. With Shalom's appointment as deputy defense minister. Kleiner takes over the post - which gives his first right of speech in debates. Committee officials say that for the time being Kleiner will also continue to chair the Insurance sub-committee.

"Lot's Wife" boat for sale

Lot's Wife, the boat plying the Dead Sea, is for sale, the director of the company announced yesterday. Motti Gonen said that with the current tourism slump, the company, which is made up of three partners and a public company, either needed an investor or would have to be sold. The situation was made worse, he said, by the failure to attain an expected permit to sail to Jordan. Gonen said the company was worth about \$300,000.

MKs, Generali agree on \$12m. Holocaust fund

By DAVID HARRIS

Knesset Members and Italian insurance giant Assicurazioni Generali made their peace yesterday as they shook hands over the establishment of a \$12 million fund for the families of policy holders killed in the Holocaust.

Generali chairman Gianfranco Gutty told Knesset Finance Committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) the payments from the fund will strike a balance between ex gratia payments to families and a variety of Holocaust-related institutions.

MKs, led by insurance sub-committee chairman Michael Kleiner (Gesher), were at loggerheads with the company which refused to pay out on policies purchased in Eastern Europe. Generali continues to argue these policies are no longer in its hands as its assets were

seized by communist regimes. Clearly still upset by Generali's approach to the issue, Kleiner again blasted the company's claim that it had "no moral obligation" to the families, but added it is now time for bygones to be bygones.

ISRAEL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

ISRAEL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY **HEAD OFFICE COMMERCE & PROPERTIES DEPARTMENT**

TENDER No. C.M. 11/97

To receive a concession to provide services in the passenger terminals for international flights at Elist, Ovda and Halfa airports, and at the border crossings, for the storage and sale of duty-and/or tax-free goods, being cosmetic products and perfumes, spirits and wines, cigarettes and bobacco products,
leactronic and electrical products, optical products, watches, appears, souvenirs, bys.
liuggage, etc. (as set forth below), to passengers departing Israel, to United Nations
personnel and diplomats, as well as the delivery to tourists departing Israel of the dutyand/or tax-free goods included among said goods which were purchased in the stops of the bidder, in the commercial center/shops in the cities, all pursuant to the approval of

The hidder must be a corporation, lawfully registered in Israel or in the country in which it conducts its business which, by itself and in the business which it

owns and manages, fulfills all of the following:

(1) Possesses, operates and manages retails shoots for the sale of dutyand/or tax-free goods to end consumers, according to a valid license from the authorities concerned with the matter, all in the last firee consecutive years, prior to the date of the commencement of the provision of the services, and whose cumulative annual sales turnover, during the last three consecutive years which preceded the date of submission of bids in the tender, was at least \$5,000,000 (five million dollars), calculated according to the average representative rate of exchange of the dollar in every year of those years.

and/or

Possesses, operates and manages retails shop/s for the sale of perfumes and cosmetic products to end consumers, all in the last three consecutive years, prior to the date of the commencement of the provision of the services, and whose cumulative annual sales turnover, in provision of the services, and whose cumulative arthus sales furnities aforesaid product group, during the last three consecutive years which preceded the date of submission of bids in the tender, was at least \$5,000,000 (five million dollars), calculated according to the average representative rate of exchange of the dollar in every year of those years.

and/or

Possesses, operates and manages retails shop/s for the sale of at least three product groups from the following product groups: electronic and electrical products, cosmetic products and perturnes, spirits and wines, cigarettes and tobacco products - including smoking accessories - all in the last three consecutive years, prior to the date of the commencen of the provision of the services, and whose sales turnover in the required or the provision of the services, and whose same temover in the required product groups, during the last three consecutive years which preceded the date of submission of bids in the tender, was at least \$5,000,000 (five million dollars), calculated according to the average representative rate of exchange of the dollar in every year of those years.

B. Has proven international business connections. A bid in the tender can be submitted jointly by a number of bidders, provided that the portion of the holder/s of the experience and cumulative annual sales turnovers which meet the requirements of subparagraph 1(A) above is at least 67% of the which meet the requirements of subparagraph 1 (A) above is at least 67% of the which meet the requirements of subparagraph 1 (A) above is at least 67% of the which meet the requirements of subparagraph 1 (A) above is at least 67% of the

tender, and/or which they undertake to establish. The period of the engagement is for three years, beginning on September 1, 1997, and ending on August 31, 2000. The Authority is entitled, at its sole, complete and eral erang on regular at, some the realizing a animou, at as some, companies and finel discretion, to extend the contract term for two consecutive terms of up to 12 months each, or for one additional term only of up to 24 months.

The tender documents may be obtained, beginning on Monday, July 14, 1997, in the Commerce and Properties Department of the Israel Airports Authority, in the the Continues and Proposition popularly working hours, after the applicant has main building. 2nd floor, chang ordinary working hours, after the applicant has submitted a written application, specifying therein its contact person, telephone submitted a written application. submitted a written application, specifying merent as contact person, telephone number, and fax number, and has made payment in cash or by bank check of the amount of NIS4,000 (four thousand New Israel Shekets) which includes Value

Added Tax. Said amount will not be refunded. The Authority will conduct tours for purchasers of the tender documents, only on Wednesday, July 23, 1997, at 10:00 a.m., and on Tuesday, July 29, 1997, at 11:00 a.m. The bid, in accordance with the requirements stated in the tender documents, must

be deposited in the tender box, located in the Records and Documentation. Department (Archives) at the head office of the Israel Airports Authority at Ben-Gurion Airport, by Thursday, August 14, 1997, at 10:00 a.m.

The Israel Airports Authority does not undertake to accept the highest or any bid



Ne'eman: Central bank should move closer to Treasury's views

By DAVID HARRIS and Jerusalem Post Staff

"The Bank of Israel should be closer to the Treasury, not geographically but spiritually," Finance Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman said yesterday during his first ministerial speech, which was addressed to both senior Treasury civil servants and journalists.

He made this remark after meeting Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel twice during the day. The first was a private meeting between the two for an overview of the economy and the second was with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in

Bank of Israel spokesman Gabi Fiszman said he doesn't see anything out of the ordi-

nary in Ne'eman's comment and said there was no need to respond to it.

Ne eman comes to the Treasury after a bitter dispute between his predecessor and Frenkel concerning the central bank's strong-shekel policies, which played a role in Meridor's resignation last month.

Describing himself as a professional, Ne'eman said he has the full backing of Netanyahu, support that Meridor said he failed to receive.

A statement from Netanyahu described the latter meeting as being held in an atmosphere of cooperation, with discussions focusing on progress toward economic growth and liberalization targets while also maintaining stability. The three agreed to hold a series of working meetings during the coming weeks.

This morning Ne'sman was scheduled to begin working meetings with senior ministry officials, led by director-general Shmuel Slavin, who told reporters that work on the planned NIS 600 million bud-get cut would begin in earnest next week. Ne'eman said he expects to hear full details

on future programs from his team of civil servants. From as early as next week Ne'eman said he intends to implement some of those

ideas, as well as some of his own. "We have difficult tasks ahead," said Ne'eman, who was not prepared to answer specific questions about the current state of

the economy or his plans for its recovery. These tasks must be approached with responsibly and caution, he urged. "We will try to base the program on increasing growth, and I'm not speaking about harsh

measures." Asked about the coalition demands for added funds as a part of the recent wave of appointments and agreements, Ne eman said it is possible to pay for anything if there is money in the bank, something he will be

checking in the coming days.
Until August 15, Ne eman indicated he will be continuing his work as chairman of the public committee on conversion, which he quipped is an even tougher job than that

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By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

General Motors, the world's

largest industrial corporation, will

send a delegation of engineers to

visit defense manufacturer Elbit

and research ways of incorporat-

ing military technology into GM

cars and trucks, Harold Kutner,

GM's vice president of worldwide

"Elbit is a leading high-tech

company, and we want to know if

there are ways to take defense technology and translate it into

parts for cars and trucks," said

Kutner, who is currently in Israel to explore potential deals. He

added that he is particularly inter-

ested in the possibility of adapting

It would take one or two years to develop such technology,

Israeli products comprise \$36m.

of the \$70b, in purchases the com-

pany makes annually, placing

Israel far behind countries such as

Brazil, Germany and France, which supply GM with the bulk of

its goods and services. However,

Kutner said business with Israeli

firms could grow significantly due to the high quality of Israeli

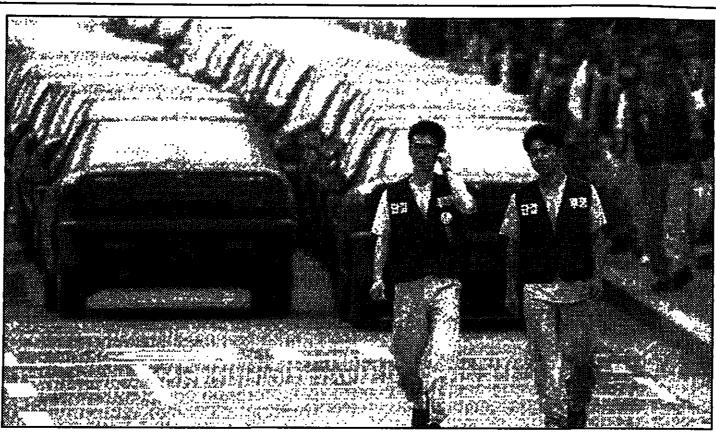
After visiting the Dead Sea

Works yesterday, Kutner said

military safety systems.

Kutner said.

purchasing, said yesterday.



South Korean motor strike

Striking South Korean workers walk past rows of cars at the Daewoo Motors plant in Bupyong, South Korea, yesterday. More than 10,000 employees at the plant came out on strike yesterday.

Trade deficit down 22% to \$4.3b.

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The trade deficit for the first six months of 1997 totaled \$4.3 billion, a 22 percent drop compared with the same period last year, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

The figures are based on exports worth \$10.2b. and imports worth \$14.5b. This semi-annual figure shows a slowdown in export growth from 0.5% a month last year to 0.2% in recent months. In annual terms, the increase is heading for 2.5%, compared to 6.5% in 1996. At the same time, the growth in imports (excluding ships, airplanes, diamonds and fuel) has registered a monthly 0.25% rise since February, compared to

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a decline of 1% a month from March 1996 until 23% diamonds and 3% agricultural produce.

Despite the semi-annually calculated improvement, the trade deficit has increased at a monthly 0.5%, following a decline of 3.9% a month in the March to January period.

The June deficit reached \$770 million, as a result of the slowdown in the growth of exports and a slight increase in imports. Imports totaled \$2.43b., of which 45% was raw materials (excluding diamonds and fuel), 15% investment goods, 14% consumer items and the remainder diamonds and fuel.

Exports last month stood at \$1.66b., 75% of which comprised industrial goods and software,

8.7.97

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(מטרה) TARGET (מטרה)

Mutual Fund for

Foreign Residents

Date:

On 6/7/97, the Target Mutual Fund distributed a 33% stock dividend.

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Purchase Price:

Redemption Price:

\$13 US Dollars/NIS 45

\$25 US Dollars/NIS 88

\$45 US Dollars/NIS 158

\$70 US Dollars/NIS 245

\$130 US Dollars/NIS 456

The trade deficit, along with the budget and

current account deficits, has been haunting the economy during the past four years of rapid eco-

Newly appointed Finance Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman is expected to support his predecessor's plan to cut NIS 600 million from the budget, a move designed to further accentuate the government's struggle to meet its goal of a 2.8% ratio between the gross domestic product and the budget deficit.

A smaller budget ultimately results in a narrower trade deficit, since it entails a reduction in

on financial strategies. She also is

host of Markets and Technology, a.

national cable television show on

She has been managing director

of the Federal Housing Board, vice

president for international finance

at the Federal National Mortgage

Association and US alternate exec-

utive director of the International

global business.

Monetary Fund.

there is "great potential" for a long-term supply agreement for magnesium. GM is also planning to explore deals with other

unnamed high-tech companies Universal Motors Israel, which distributes GM cars locally, also conducts research into new technologies and advises GM on ways that it can use local technologies to make cars and trucks Bush, 49, is president of Bush and Co., a Washington firm that advises more efficient. UMI sells about 15,000 GM government and corporate clients

vehicles in Israel per year.

During his visit, Kutner, who is here as part of a United Jewish Appeal program known as Partnership 2000, met with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Minister of Industry and Trade Natan Sharansky.

Earlier in the week he met with automotive parts suppliers in Nazareth Illit.

Texaco appoints its first black woman director

WHITE PLAINS, New York (AP) - Texaco Inc. has nominated Mary K. Bush, president of an international consulting firm, to be the first black woman on its board of directors.

Peter Bijur, Texaco's chairman, said Monday the nomination is part of Texaco's "continuing effort to bring a diverse array of ideas and talent to the board." Texaco already has one black and one woman on its 12-member board.

This is very much a step in the right direction," said Tim Smith, executive director of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility. The group was among the sponsors of an unsuccessful proposal at this year's shareholder meeting calling for greater diversity on the board. Texaco's racial policies became

the subject of widespread debate last year with the release of tape recordings on which company officers allegedly belittled black employees and plotted to destroy evidence in a race discrimination case. The case was quickly settled for a record \$176 million. Criminal prosecutions are pending.

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Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates" (8.7.97) **CHECKS AND TRANSFERS**

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™Bank of Israel. These rates vary according to bank. SOURCE: BANK LEUM

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TASE ROUNDUP

Shares mixed on profit-taking

Mishtanim 303,95 ▲ 0.03%

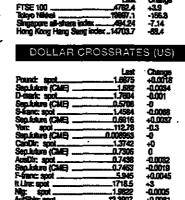
309.07 ▼ 0.40%

Shares closed off their highs yesterday as investors took profits, traders said.

The benchmark Mishtanim index of the top 100 shares gained 0.03 percent, or 0.10 points, to 303.95, on an all-share turnover of NIS 210m. against 228m. on

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Key Representative	Rates
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US DollarNIS 3.5690	- 0.11%
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Mark NIS 2.0254	
MBJK	- 0.40%





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SPOT MARKET METALS (US)
Gold: spot
NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 9-JUL-97)

A B A COMPUTER SYSTEMS LIMITED REPAIRS MAINTENANCE & SUPPL Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

DATA COMMUNICATIONS VIA



Tel Aviv shares data

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Jerusalem Post Business

Desk, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem

91000

Money management Corporate finance

The Maof 25 blue-chip index closed 0.40 percent lower, at 309.07.

Traders said that the session opened with mild gains following the rise of Israeli shares traded in New York. But by midday the trend changed, and the market started falling. "I don't know why the market

lost momentum. The market is still strong and it seems that the positive trend will continue. The weakening might be a healthy corsaid Zvi Hoffman at Investments Securities. "I believe that this is only a mild

correction, as investors were made nervous by the rapid rise in the market," said a trader at United Mizrahi Bank.

"Perhaps the reason for the change is that investors feared that

the spending promises [prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu] has given to the coaltion members would hurt the fiscal restraint." Hoffman said.

The Mizrahi trader added that the market was also affected by the heavy activity of Maof options speculators. "The Maof players were moving the market. In the next few days I believe that we will see more profit-taking, but the trend is still very positive,"

The most active shares were Koor Industries, which rose 3.25 percent to 34,322 agorot on volnme of NIS 13.3m., Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, which gained 0,25 percent to 23,527 on turnover of NIS 11.8m; and Bank Leumi, which fell 0.25 percent to-570 agorot on turnover of NIS

she said.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

World stocks mixed

LONDON (Reuter) - The UK's leading blue-chip index finished little changed after an earlier Wall Street-inspired rally reversed and dragged British shares off their best levels, dealers said. The FTSE 100 closed at 4,762.4, up 3.9 points or 0.08 percent.

FRANKFURT - Germany's DAX index surged to its seventh consecutive record closing high in bourse dealings, underpinned by the dollar rising to 1.76 marks in European dealings and higher German debt prices. The DAX-30 index closed at 4.055.86, up 49.46 points or 1.23%.

In later screen-based trade the IBIS DAX index ended at 4,026.97, down 3.13 points, or

PARIS - Stocks rose, bolstered by record gains on Wall Street, but shares closed off their highs as late weakness in the bond market and a huge sale of Alcatel Alsthom shares weighed on the bourse, bro-kers said. The CAC-40 index: closed at 2.950.56, up 20.75 points, or 0.71%. ZURICH - Shares failed to

maintain an early upward drive, snapping a four-day bull run to end lower as bourse heavyweights such as Novartis, UBS and Nestle turned negative on early Wall Street losses. The Swiss market index closed at 5,977.1, down 35.5 points, or 0.59%.

TOKYO - Stocks closed moderately lower. The 225-share Nikkei average closed at 19,697.17, down 156.72 points, or 0.79 percent.

SYDNEY - Shares closed on a strong tone as gold stocks moved higher for the first time in four days and yield-sensitive stocks! rose on hopes of another interest-

The All Ordinaries index closed at 2,696.1, up 16.9 points or

WALL STREET REPORT

Dow plummets 119 points

The Dow Jones industrial average raced lower as investors nailed down profits yesterday, after the blue-chip index failed for the second straight day to punch through the 8,000-point mark.

The Dow ended down 119.88 points, or 1.51 percent, at 7,842.43. Anearly rally stalled at 7,991.26. In the broader market, declining issues led advances 17-11 on heavy volume of 593 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

WHERE TO GO

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HEBREW UNIVERSITY. Tours of the HEBREW UNIVERSITY. Tours of the Mount Scopus campus, in English, daily Sun.-Thur., 11 a.m. from Bronfman Reception Center, Sherman Administration Bldg. Buses 4a, 9, 23, 26, 28. For Info, call 5882819.

HADASSAH. Visit the Hadassah installations, Chagall Windows. Tel. 02-6416333, 02-6776271.

TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV MUSEUM, Andres Serrano: The Morgue. Soviet Photography from the Museum collection. Lucian Freud: selection of works. Tzvi Hecker:
Sunflower. Portraits: By a group of Israeli artists. Virtual Reality: The domestic and realistic in contemporary Israeli art. HELENA RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART. Shores Res. Double and American ART. Shlomo Ben-David and Amori Ben-David, The Inverted Campaign. Hours: Weekdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Meyerhoff Art Education Center, Tel.

WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, diel 04-

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

Thursday, July 10 EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

PHARMACIES
Jerusalem: Arnona, 9 Leib Yaffe, 6731901; Balsam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315;
Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 581-0108; Dar
Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.
Tel Aviv: Clal Pharm Gan Ha'ir, 71 ibn
Gvirol, 527-9317; Superpharm Gimel,
1 Ahimek, Ramat Aviv Gimel, 6417171. Till midnight: Superpharm Ramat
Aviv, 40 Einstein, 641-3730; London
Ministore Superpharm, 4 Shauf
Hamelech, 696-0115.
Ba'anana-Kiar Save: Medex Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Merkaz Ra'anana, 120 Ahuza, Ra'anana, 760-

Ra'anana, 120 Ahuza, Ra'anana, 760-3798.
Netanya: Kupat Holim Maccabi, 15
Smilansky, 860-5204.
Haifa: Hanita, 22 Hanita. 823-1905.
Krayot area: Kupat Holim Clalit
Zevulun, 192 Derech Akko, Kiryat
Bialik, 878-7818.
Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Belt Merkazim, 6
Maskit (cm. Scerot Hagalim), Herzliya
Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 9
a.m. to midnight.

a.m. to midnight. Upper Nazareth: Clai Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 DUTY HOSPITALS Jerusalem: Bikur Holim (Internal, ENT); Shaare Zedek (surgery, onthopedics, obstatics); Hadassah En Kerem

(pediatrics, ophthalmology): Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana liatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (surgery). Netanya: Laniado.

POLICE 100 FIRST AID

in emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911 (English) in most parts of the country. In addition: n emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911 (English) in most parts of the country. In addition: Ashdod 8551333 Klar Sava 9902222

Ashkalon 6551332 Nahariya" 9912333 ersheba* 6274767. Netarye* 8604444 Petah Tikea* 9311111 Belt Shamash 8523133. Rehovo@ 9451333 Haita* 8512233 Safed 6920333 Jerusalem* 6523133 Tel Aniv 5460111
Kamier 985444 Tiberias* 6792444
* Mobile intensive Care Unit (MICU)

service in the area, around the clock. Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110 The National Poison Control Center at

Rambam Hospital 04-852-9205, 24 hours a day, for information in case of hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.
Eran – Emotional First Aid – 1201, also Jerusalem 561-0303, Tel Aviv 548-1111 (chiàdren/youth 546-0739); Rishon Lezion 956-6661/2; Halfa 867-2222, Beersheba 649-4333, Netarnya 862-5110, Karmiel 988-8770, Kfar Sava 767-4555, Hadera 634-6789.
Crisis Center for Religious Women 02-655-5744/5. 24-hour service, confidentiality guaranteed.
Wizo hottimes for bettered women 02-651-4111, 03-548-1133 (also in Russian), 07-637-6310, 08-855-0506 (also in Amhana)

(also in Amhan-1 Rape Crisis Center (2-, hours), Tel Aviv 523-4819, 544-9191 (men); Jerusalem 625-6558, Haifa 853-0533, Flat 833-1077 Ellat 633-1977. Hadsssah Medical Organization — Israel Cancer Association support ser-vice 02-624-7675).

*in local currencies

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BY RACHEL HEMAN

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No Dumping

Egypt's producers are suffering from low-priced imports

CAIRO, (Reuters) - Egyptian industrialists, hit by imports after decades of protectionism, are looking to the government's small anti-dumping department

But in many cases the department is giving them the cold shoulder, saying their case is not strong enough and their companies will have to sink or swim in a com-

petitive market. The pace of dumping complaints has quickened through the 1990s as the government cuts import tariffs as WITH ESMAT SALAHEDDIN weekly newspa-

part of a classic economic liberalization program approved by the International Monetary Fund

and the World Bank. Egyptian tariffs remain high by world standards, at 16 percent of the total cost of imports, but even at this level, some industries find it hard to keep their heads above water.

Newspapers are full of reports on dumped imports - those sold at below production cost threatening domestic producers of everything from sieel reinforcement bars to sugar, clothing to macaroni.

Anti-dumping has become the most popular trade remedy among the industrialized countries... Developing countries have also joined the trend," Haiyang Zhao, an economics professor at the University of Hong Kong, told a recent seminar. But a government official,

who declined to be named, told Reuters, "Most cases are not strong enough to take measures.... There is no protection for bad industries."

"We are for good (local) producers, whose products can compete locally and abroad," added the head of parliament's industry committee, Amin Mubarak.

We are not for producers who produce bad or expensive products due to mismanagement, overstaffing or other factors. We are not with them and cannot encourage them," he told Reuters.

So far the anti-dumping department, set up in the Ministry of Trade and Supply in 1992 has taken its most decisive action in the case of stainless steel sink imports from Europe. "The Greek firm Pyramis and

informed in March that an investigation into their exports of sinks to the Egyptian market has started," an official said. In a major case now in the

the Spanish firm TEKA were

works, the department has recommended anti-dumping duties on steel sheets imported from eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics, which sell at much lower prices than the local equivalents.
The prices of final (steel)

products from the former Soviet Union have nothing to do with real prices," said Ahmed Ezz.

chairman of the

WORLD BEAT Ezz Group, one of two complainants against imports of steel reinforcement

> per al-Boursa said Egypt would impose a 20 percent duty, but the official said it would be lower.

It was up to the competent authorities to decide, he added. The department, however, refused to start an investigation into a complaint by the Egyptian state's Sugar and Integrated Industries Company (SIIC), traditionally the country's sole producer of refined sugar.

The sugar company complained that private importers were undercutting their prices on the local sugar market.

"I don't protect a producer, I protect an industry," said Sayyed Abu al-Qumsan, the head of the foreign trade department in the Trade and Supply Ministry.

"In the sugar case, I must be fully neutral, because one monopolist (SIIC) stands against over 400 local plants using this product and over 60 million individual consumers.

"The world price declined, so what? For once let us respect the (Egyptian) consumer," Abu al-Qumsan told Reuters.

In the old days, the state company would have complained directly to the government, which would probably have responded with a temporary duty on cheap imports. Now Egyptian companies have to go through the anti-dumping complaint procedure and back up their claims with figures. Some still find it difficult to put their

case together. _P
"Dumping complaints are recent in Egypt, and we don't have enough experience to file complete complaints," said an executive in the steel industry The government official also

cited cases where dumping accusations were difficult to announce for political reasons. "There are political decisions

that prevent taking any mea-sures, as in the case of Libyan or Saudi steel," he added.

Housing isn't everything

Going against the local industry's grain, mortgage specialist Bank of Jerusalem is in the process of diversifying into a fully fledged commercial bank

By DORFT BAR

The Bank of Jerusalem is charting its own course through the turbulent waters of Israeli banking. While the prevailing current in most of the banking sector is for banks to more closely define, and often to reduce, the scope of their activities - reflecting a combination of economic forces, growing competition and the impact of new technologies - The Bank of Jerusalem is in the process of changing from a narrowly based mortgage bank to a full commercial bank.

The bank's name has already been changed to reflect it's new focus. The former Jerusalem Mortgage Bank was, until recently, involved almost exclusively in mortgage-related business, as one would expect. Once it decided to broaden its range of specializa-tions to include three new fields, namely private banking for foreign residents, real-estate financing and capital-market activities, it was both natural and necessary for the name to become less specific, hence the Bank of Jerusalem.

The bank's traditional activities centered on granting mortgage loans to Israelis with rights for government-subsidized loans. The bank also engaged in the extension of long-term, index-linked bank credit, and provided project financing to contractors of housing projects in which the client base was similar to the bank's general market. On the funding side, it raised capital by selling bonds to institutional investors.

But, as the government reduced its level of involvement in housing loans and cut the budgets earmarked for this purpose, profit ratios dropped and management realized that it had to branch out into new areas if it was to retain a respectable level of profitability. At the same time, the financial markets have become far more competitive, leaving no room for a small, independent bank marketing a single product.

Aside from increasing profits, the bank's new business philosophy is aimed at reducing risk - in one way by reducing its exposure to the cyclical nature of the housing market - and enhancing competitiveness and efficiency. The principle behind these aims, and upon which the bank believes these aims can be reached, is the development of four profit centers in place of the single one in operation hitherto. The plan is for the profit from mortgage activities, which until now has constituted 100 percent of profits, to comprise only 55% of total profits within a few years.

Zalman Shoval, chairman of the



board of directors, says that the bank has entered a new era: The implementation of a policy of defined and controlled expansion will enhance the bank's level of compentiveness and will increase its share of business within the Israeli banking sector. Shoval notes that the emerging trend world over is one where an ever-widening range and combination of financial services is being offered, and the Bank of Jerusalem is responding to this call by moving into fields in which it has a compar-

ative advantage.
One key element in the adoption of the new business outlook has been the acquisition of the Unitrust brokerage firm, whose name has been changed to Jerusalem Capital Markets. The brokerage is a full and veteran member of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange and, apart from share trading, is active in the fields of portfolio management for institutional investors and for domestic and foreign clients, as well as mutual-fund management and managing new share issues. The Bank of Jerusalem is placing the capital market at the center of its future activities, underlining its belief in the long-term attractiveness of the Israeli market.

The bank's corporate division, which has offices in both Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, has also extended its project-financing activities in the construction industry and has prepared an operational infrastructure that will enable the extension of commercial credit. In addition, it has set up its own insurance agency, Ir Shalem, and initiated a line of deposit and savings accounts for the local market.

But perhaps the most crucial of the new activities is the development of an international division. Shoval says that a strong emphasis will be placed on foreign residents. "Our aim is to offer our clients asset-management services which will include varied investment options — deposits, securities, both in Israel and abroad, and more."

To this end, the Bank of Jerusalem has obtained a license authorizing it to trade in foreign currency and is in the process of refurbishing a building in the heart of Jerusalem to serve as its International Private Banking center. This unit has started making foreign-currency mortgage loans as well as accepting foreign-currency deposits from foreign residents.

The granting of a full commercial banking license is expected in the near future, and will put the seal on the bank's transformation. These new ventures have neces-

sitated the recruitment of top-level professionals onto the bank's roster. These include General Manager Ya'acov Eisner, Head of the Savings and Loans Department Yo'av Nardi, Head of International Banking Stuart Hershkovitz and Alex Goldberg, head of Jerusalem Capital Markets.

Shoval stresses that "all the developments up till now have been achieved with existing capital. Export Investment Corporation (owned by the Mayer family) currently holds 80% of the bank's equity, so when the need arises to raise further capital, it can be done without affecting the control structure." In fact, although the new business strategy is primarily the

pharmacies and selected sport stores.

creation of another new arrival at the bank, Vice-Chairman David Bloomberg, Shoval notes that private banking is not a new concept for the Mayer group as a whole. "As early as the 1960s, then

within the framework of the Export Bank (which later merged with others to form First International Bank), we were among the first institutions that attempted to introduce private banking," he recalls. He adds that the reason for failure was the absolute control that the government had at the time over the capital and money markets, a state of affairs that has been sharply curtailed over the past decade.

Shoval, of course, is best known as a Likud politician and former Israeli ambassador to the UN. It is therefore not surprising to hear that, unlike others, Shoval does not believe that there has been a decrease in the readiness to invest and do business in Israel, whether by Jews or non-Jews.

He says that "the business world is very alert and has the ability to see the long-term picture. They believe that a political agreement will eventually be reached and therefore temporary upsets, however severe they may be, do not put them off."

Vice-Chairman David Bloomberg former CEO of Mizrahi Bank and of mortgage giant Bank Tefahot, says that only a very few of the banking institutions in the country actually define themselves and their strategy, although many of them need to do so. He emphasizes that it is the actual definition of business activities and the branching out to four sectors that

Within five years, we want to have doubled our profits and attain a 15% return on equity."

Bloomberg asserts that the bank's name - Jerusalem - has huge appeal and is therefore a major asset. At the same time, he recognizes that it is also somewhat problematic, as the name presumes to define a limited geographical area in which the bank operates. This is of course not true, and a recent publicity campaign was designed. to highlight the bank's 20 branches scattered throughout the country.

But the appeal of the name was emphasized when, two months after the bank had changed from Jerusalem Mortgage Bank to the Bank of Jerusalem, an Arab bank applied to the Supervisor of Banks to receive the name Jerusalem Bank, only to find the slot filled.

Bloomberg adds that the classical or old-style mortgage bank was characterized by the fact that its customers had a one-off relationship with the bank, namely arranging a mortgage. "We are now trying to create a situation whereby clients will deal with the bank not only when they need a mortgage, but throughout their financial life cycle," he says. "We would like to be able to extend a number of different loans, for car purchases, household renovations, children's education and the like. I believe that the 65,000 clients we already have constitute an interesting platform for the introduction of retail activities, without the need for current accounts." With regards to the capital mar-

ket, Bloomberg says that in Israel people will always talk and complain about the problems and scandals, but the fact is that over the past 15 years, the Israeli economy has experienced phenomenal growth. This optimism is not limited only to the capital market, but also applies to the real-estate market: "The large advantage in Israel is the fact that the housing market is fundamentally both constant and very firm." He does not foresee a large drop in prices, "There may be a downward price correction, but not a crash in prices, and this due to the fact that in Israel there is virtually no inventory construction and the supply matches demand as it arises."

In fact, according to Bloomberg, while the market was booming, supply could not keep up with growing demand. In his opinion, though, over the current year we can expect a drop in activity, with only about 40,000 building starts and 150,000 transactions, a trend that shows that supply is rapidly adjusting itself to a reduced level of demand.

SMART SHOPPING

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Bedtime Story

Choosing the right mattress can end the nightmare of sleeplessness

By RACHEL NEIMAN

Hossing and turning in the heat of a sweltering night is a common summer phenomenon. Next time it happens, since you can't sleep anyway, consider the following: According to the US National Commission on Sleep Disorders, adults today are getting 20 percent less sleep than they did 100 years ago.

Not to worry. Amnon Schwartz, general manager of the Aminach group, a brand name furniture manufacturer which has become synonymous with mattresses, is dedicated to making the best of this tiresome problem. Based on the assumption that the quality of those 6-8 hours can make up for the loss in quantity, Aminach has founded an in-house sleep research laboratory, intended to come up with practical applications for product development. In conducting its research, Aminach, like the King Koil company, has been working closely with the International Chiropractors Association for

Israelis like spring mattresses, which are quite a change from the foam mattresses of 20 years ago. Schwartz attributes this change to the overall rise in the standard of living. "There used to be foam mattresses in Europe as well, but today there are almost

none sold there." Mattresses have also gotten wider. "The 120-cm. width used to be the most popular. Today, it's 140 cm.-150 cm. Even young people want what's called a bed-and-a half (a 120 cm.-wide single bed)." And money - within reason - is no object. Israelis, he says, are willing

to pay well for a good night's sleep. Aminach manufactures under license to King Koil and Serta. "People prefer the spring mattress"

ability to air itself out. There's no mildew problem, and it doesn't fall apart after prolonged exposure to UV rays."

Schwartz categorizes mattresses made under the Aminach brand name as "basic," King Koil as "midrange" and Serta as "top of the line." How are these classifications measured? Schwartz says it's a question of the grade of materials used, and production quality, in terms of design, manufacturing and finish.

In most spring mattresses, the metal spring unit inside is com-posed of hundreds of wire metal coils held together either by wire (as in the conventional coil system) or individual cloth pockets. The gauge, or thickness, of the wire from which the innerspring coils are made, affects the flexibility of each coil, which ultimately determines the level of mattress firmness. The thicker, heavier gauge wires are firmer and less flexible. The more flexible a wire coil is, the more it will contour to individual

Coil count, or the number of coils in a mattress, is also important. Innerspring mattresses with a high coil count fit and conform better to the body. More contouring generally means more overall comfort.

Polyester fabric, such as polyolefin, is the material most commonly used to cover mattresses. According to the FabricLink resource for fabrics and textiles, polyolefin is "lightweight; strong; abrasion-resistant, stain-, static-, sunlight- and odor-resistant, has high insulation characteristics; resists deterioration from chemicals, mildew, perspiration, rot and weather, is fast drying and non-allergenic." In short, it's a dream fabric in terms

of ticking mattresses. Material such as Dacron provides soft cushioning and is generally found in more expensive, higher quality mattresses. In most cases, the more of this material, the more expensive the mattress will be. It's important to know that soft cushioning doesn't mean a soft mattress. A mattress can have lots of cushioning, yet still have firm innerspring coils for support.

Inside, polyurethane foam cushioning of different densities and thickness produce different levels of support. Urethane, or furniture foam, is a plastic that loses resiliency and shape over time, one reason why a metal coil mattress, aged 8-10 years, has to be replaced. Not to be confused with foam

rubber, latex has become more popular lately, due to trendy motorized adjustable beds, which require a flexible mattress. Latex is a milky-white liquid composed of rubber particles dispersed in water, whipped with air to form a foam, and frozen in place, sometimes by using fillers or extenders. Natural latex is hypo-allergenic, anti-microbial, dust-mite resistant, and breathes.

There is no quality standard, either local or international, for mattresses. There are standards for the materials used, including a US Consumer Product Safety Commission Standard for the Flammability of Mattresses and Mattress Pads, issued in 1987, to

protect the public against risks of fires that have resulted from the ignition of mattresses by cigarettes. Aminach must meet the Israeli standards for polyurethane, metals, and fabric. In manufacturing, says Schwartz, the company has chosen to meet "some US standards." As far as the company is concerned, they are "the only furniture

manufacturer in Israel to meet ISO 9002 production line standards." Aminach was founded in 1948, in Jaffa by Amnon's father Moshe Schwartz, who supplied mattresses under contract to the Jewish Agency. In 1956, the company began producing the spring and in 1965, moved to its present location in Nir Zvi.

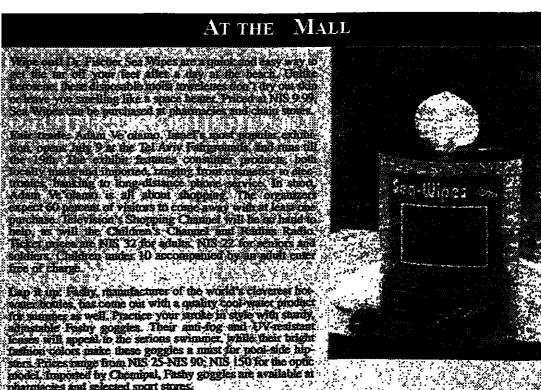
The Aminach group is a private company, which includes Rim, the Aminach Center and American Comfort chains. The group has 600 workers, including the employees at its 20 stores.

The company also makes so-called "youth sofas," brightly upholstered fold-out sleepers for teens and pre-teens. "Inside, the mattresses are made of the same materials, components and technology as Aminach. Outside, they are very fashion-oriented," says Schwartz.

Ours is the largest furniture factory and company in Israel. We have five technologies in five factories at Nir Zvi: polyurethane, wood, youth sofas, metal and mattresses. And we have the sleep research laboratory, headed by Prof. Jean Asheknazi of Tel Aviv University, a specialist in sleep disorders."

The laboratory specializes in sleep research used in product development. "We felt there was great potential for improving prodncts. People today get less sleep, which is exactly [the problem] we're working on."

To be comfortable, the body must be relieved at the pressure points, located at the shoulders, hips, knees, elbows and heels. Under pressure, they cut off circulation to soft tissue. Sleepers toss and turn during the night to relieve pressure and restore blood flow. "When they are comfortable, people turn over less and wake up fewer times during the night. Their quality of sleep improves so they need less sleep. Obviously, the body needs sleep and the brain needs to rest. But, like a battery, if your recharger is good, you need less recharging time."



Getting Bydrated: Project yourself from the drying elements of summer with Wella's System Professional Sun products. The sun, salt and chlorinated water are all damaging. Give your boir a fair chance with Wella's gel, sharepoo and mousse (NIS 44) and save your skin with the cream mask (NIS 52) imported by historicosm, these products are available at salons.

In these times you cannot AFFORD to be without

THE JERUSALEM POST

for Cleveland catchers and won the game for the American League 3-1 over the National League on Tuesday in the All-Star Game.

While NL hitters did little no matter what side of the plate they batted from - Larry Walker even turned around after Randy Johnson playfully threw a pitch over his head - Alomar's two-run homer in the seventh inning gave the AL the win, ending its threegame losing streak. "You only get one chance to

play before your hometown crow4 in an All-Star game," Alomar said. "I don't know how to explain it. Everything I see looks like a beach

Alomar, who took a 30-game hitting streak into the All-Star break, made the most of his only at-hat with a two-out drive against San Francisco's Shawn Estes and earned the MVP award. Before Alomar's home run,

Indians catchers were known for only one thing in All-Star play. It was 1970 when Ray Fosse was bowled over by Cincinnati's Pete Rose for the winning run in the 12th inning.

The AL cut its deficit in the series to 40-27-1.

Kansas City's Jose Rosado wound up the winner despite giving up a tying, solo home run to Javy Lopez in the seventh. Mariano Rivera of the New York Yankees pitched a perfect ninth, finishing a combined three-hitter for eight AL pitchers.

Edgar Martinez homered in the second inning for the AL as home runs accounted for all of the scor-

Alomar and his brother, All-Star second baseman Roberto, pinned black ribbons to each other's jersey sleeve in memory of their grandmother, Tonee Valazquez, who died last week at age 96. She was buried in Puerto Rico on

"I know my grandmother is in a better place," Sandy Alornar said. "This game was dedicated to her. The rest of the season will be dedicated to her."

The fans booed Albert Belle when he was introduced in his first return since the Chicago White Sox visited in June, an appearance that prompted the former Cleveland star to make an obscene gesture at his former rooters. He did not play.

"He said he'd be uncomfortable playing." AL manager Joe Torre

Walker, who leads the majors in batting at .398 and the NL with 25 homers, made his lefty vs. lefty matchup with Johnson, baseball's

Royals fire Boone

Bob Boone was fired as manager of the Kansas City Royals yesterday and replaced by Chicago Cubs hitting coach Tony Musen

The Royals said hitting

instructor Greg Luxinski and first base coach Mitchell Page were also fired. The are being replaced by former Royals' Alf-Star second baseman Frank White and Tom Poquette, another former Kansas Chypilavae. player



HOMEWARD BOUND - American League third base coach Willie Randolph of the New York Yankees celebrates with Indians' Sandy Alomar, who belted a 2-run HR in the 7th inning to give the AL a 3-1 win over the National League in the All-Star Game.

most overpowering pitcher.

over Walker's head and hit the his first All-Star bat, and the first backstop on the fly. Walker, laughing, turned his helmet around. moved to the other batter's box and took a pitch for a ball right-

Walker then went back to batting left-handed, and drew a walk.
"He had fun with it, and so did I, and I think the fams did, too," Johnson said. "It was kind of humid out there. The ball just slipped out of my hand."

"It was a fun at-bat. It all worked out. I'm just glad it's over," Walker said. "He and I have been

great friends for years."

Lopez, one of seven Atlanta players on the NL team, opened the seventh with a drive off the left-field foul pole that tied it at 1.

The shot off Rosado made Johnson threw the first pitch far Lopez the 11th player to homer in since Jeff Conine in 1995.

Lopez also continued the recent trend of power provided by NL game with a home run and dou-

Before Lopez connected, NL hitters had been held to just one hit, a single by Jeff Blauser in the third off Roger Clemens.

100—1 3 0 20x—3 7 0 National 010 000 American

G.Maddux, Schilling (3), K.J.Brown (5), P.J.Martinez (6), Estes (7), BJJones (8) and Piazza, JLopez (4), CJohnson (8); RaJohnson, Clemens (3), Cone (4), Ju Thompson (5), Hentgen (6), Rosado (7), Ra. Myers (8), M.Rivera (9) and I.Rodriguez, S. Alomar (6). W-Rosado, 1-0. L-Estes, 0-1. Sv-M.Rivera (1). HRs-National, J.Lopez (1). American, E.Martinez (1), S.Alomar (1).

Alomar's hometown heroics Cleveland catcher's HR lifts AL to 3-1 All-Star win CLEVELAND (AP) — Sandy Alomar's hit restored some pride and the control of the

LAS VEGAS (Reuters) Former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson was banned from boxing and fined \$3 million yesterday for biting opponent Evander Holyfield's ears during a fight last month that shocked fans around the world.

Tyson was not present when the five-member Nevada State Athletic Commission voted unanimously to impose the maximum punishment and revoke his license to box in the state, effectively ban-

ning him from boxing in the US.

The 31-year-old boxer, who once dominated the sport, can apply for reinstatement in one year but if his application for a new license is denied he must wait

another year to try again. The revocation could constitute a lifetime ban.

In the June 28 title bout, Tyson twice bit champion Holyfield's ears, taking off a portion of his top right ear in the third round before he was disqualified. Tyson at first

15th MACCABIAH



Mike Tyson

claimed he was retaliating for being

cut by a head butt, but later apologized and admitted he'd "snapped." Nevada Deputy Attorney General Gordon Fink was in no mood to accept an apology and told the commission: "The events

of June 28 demand the maximum penalty ... suspension is a mere interruption.

Holyfield's lawyer, Jim Thomas, said that while the champion accepted Tyson's personal apology, The eyes of the world are on this commission. No boxer is bigger than the sport of boxing."

Tyson's lawyers appealed for leniency, asking the commission to not be swayed by a public out-cry that was demanding the boxer's banishment

The commission heard the arguments and with hardly any discussion voted to revoke his license and fine him 10 percent of his

Under new federal laws, a suspension in Nevada effectively bars Tyson from fighting anywhere in

The law does not force other states to honor a Nevada ban, but those states would have to justify in writing a decision allowing

Israeli clubs

take on

minnows

of Europe

By DEREK FATTAL

The Geneva Hilton was the

focus for millions of soccer faus

across the European continent

yesterday afternoon. The presti-

gious hotel hosted the draw for

the preliminary rounds of the

three top continental club com-

A record 188 clubs from 48

countries and territories will be

competing for Euro-honors this

Israel's three representatives

in the new campaigns European club tournaments fared relative-

National League champions

Betar Jerusalem appear to face a the sternest task, being pitted against Macedonia's Sileks

Kratovo in the Champions?

In the preliminary round of

the Cup Winners' Cup, Hapoel

Beersheba play against Zalgiris Vilnius of Lithuania, while in the UEFA Cup preliminary

round, Hapoel Petah Tikva

entertain Estonia's Flora

Israeli sides have failed to

impress on the European stage

to date. A succession of bad sea-

sous in the UEFA Cup particu-

larly has led to Israel's quota for

the competition being reduced

from three at one time to just

Betar's opponents, Sileks,

raced to an easy league and championship double last sea-son after leading the league by eleven points at the halfway win-

ter break. Macedonia's national

side - which includes a number

one contestant this season.

ly well in the draw.

petitions.

season.

Tallinn.

Broadway magic

the aid of the 15th Maccabiah.

Having heard that the Polish and Bulgarian delegations were financially strapped and in danger of having to cancel their participation in the 15th Games, which begins on July 14, Avshalomov, who owns Broadway Sneakers in New York, donated \$5,000 to the cause. Now the 5-strong Polish delega-tion and the 10 Bulgarian competitors will appear, wearing "Broadway Sneakers" t-shirts.

Carlos in goal
Galo Carlos, who played alongside Zico, Socrates and Roberto Falcao, superstars of Brazil's 1982 World Cup side, will arrive here tomorrow to take part in the Maccabiah celebrations.

Carlos will coach the Brazilian soccer team which is taking part in the Games.

The goalkeeping veteran, 41, is still interested in playing and has expressed a wish to try and find a team here which may need in his services. Event-ful

The festivities and celebration of the 15th Maccabiah, July 14-24, do not belong exclusively to the athletes.

Besides the sold-out opening

um including a spectacular multimedia presentation, the public is invited to attend special functions as well as the sports events.

Tickets are still available for the gala musical evening on July 13 at the Tel Aviv Center for Performing Arts where US gold medalist gymnast Kerri Strug will be making her first public appearance in Israel. A salute to the Maccabiah guests

will be held on July 13 at Jerusalem's outdoor Sultan's Pool with the IDF Choir and Batsheva Dance Group, among others. MK Moshe Katsav and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert will deliver The closing ceremony, the cul-

mination of four years planning and 10 days of frenetic activity, will take place at Latrun in a ceremony which will inaugurate Israel's 50th birthday celebrations. Tickets to each of the above events cost NIS 260.

For sports lovers, tickets to individual events cost NIS 20 while an all-sport event ticket at NIS 105 covers entry to all events. Tickets can be bought at the

Kfar Maccabiah ticket office (O3-6715932), official ticket agencies or at the sports venues. Post Sports Staff

Atlanta yachting

Ukrainians Yevgeny Bresleves and Igor Matavyenko, who won the

Vecker, who also placed second in last year's world championships.

Completing the elite trio are Portugal's Vitor Roshach and Nono Barto,

Officials at the Yachting Association were surprised to receive anoth-

er affirmative response, this time from Armenia.

The gold, silver and bronze medalists from Atlanta in the 470-yachting competition will all be in action at the world championships in Tel

gold, confirmed their participation yesterday.

of Sileks players - still reveals its Yugoslavian ancestry.

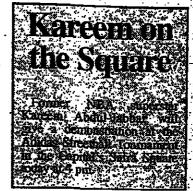
The country's recent 3-2 World Cup qualifier victory over the Republic of Ireland is further proof that Betar cannot afford to be complacent when they travel to Kratovo for the first leg match on July 23, with the return match being played at Teddy Stadium on July 30.
Sileks also fields the

Macedonian league's two top scorers, Miroslav Drokic and Vanco Micevski, who each netted 16 goals last season. The bad news for the

Jerusalemites is that if they advance against Sileks they will then go on to face Sporting Lisbon. Hapoel Beersheba also open

their account away from home on July 23 against Zalgiris Vilnius, with the return leg in Israel a week later. Although weakened by the loss of some of their best players, the southerners should have what it takes to proceed to the next preliminary

In addition to having the easiest draw, Hapoel Petah Tikva have the advantage of hosting their opening European match against Flora Tallinn on August 14, almost two weeks after the domestic season opens on August 2.



CLASSIFIEDS

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catchers - Mike Piazza won the MVP award in last summer's

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wall in left field.

David Cone, Justin Thompson

and Pat Hentgen combined to set

down eight straight batters before

This was the first year that fans

elected a designated hitter to the

All-Star team, and they made a

Martinez, batting .342 with 16

home runs for Seattle, led off the

second with a drive off Greg

Maddux that landed among the

fans standing above the 19-foot

Lopez led off against Rosado.

smart choice in Martinez.

medalists to appear here

Aviv at the end of next month.

From Britain will arrive silver medalists John Merricks and Ian

the Atlanta bronze medalists.

Another fall mars Tour stage

PLUMELEC (AP) - Tony Rominger was prophetic. "There will be some more crashes on this Tour. That was not the last mass crash," Swiss Rominger said Sunday after a group crash in the first of the Tour de France's stages. "The way they send us over such narrow roads here is a scandal."

Yesterday's fourth stage was marked by another fall and brought up the role of safety on the roads. This time not only a rider was injured but also a spectator. Injured was Fabio Fontanelli who had a crushed chest and internal hemorrhaging. He was forced to abandon the race.

The fourth stage from Plumelec to Le Puy du Fou, 223 kilometers (138.6 miles) was won by Italian Nicolas Minali barely in front of Frenchman Frederic Third was Erik Zabel of Germany, Tuesday's stage winner and fourth was Mario Cipollini, the overall

leader and winner of the first two stages. Rominger was a victim of the second big crash which happened in Tuesday's third stage. A group fall with about nine km (5.6m) left put Rominger out of the race with a broken collarbone.

He had to drop out of the race and will be operated on Rominger said the only thing he remembers from Tuesday's fall was that "I was drinking something and saw people begin to sway and to fall on the left

side of the road." "He fell on his head. He had his helmet broken on the right side," said teammate Philippe Gaumont "Luckily he had it. We saw immediately that he had a broken collarbone and the leg bloody. He told me he couldn't move his shoulder."

Rominger, 36, was one of the top riders in the world in the early 1990s but faded over the last two years. "I'm not happy to say goodbye to the Tour in that way," he said.

He was transferred to Paris overnight then moved to Switzerland where he will be operated on a multiple fracture of the collarbone. Rominger said the that the organizers should pick



Fabio Fontanelli

larger roads but, he admitted, "we all take risks" at the beginning of the Tour. Zabel gained a little more on Cipollini with his

third place finish. He is now within four seconds of the overall lead. Third was Chris Boardman of Britain, 35 seconds behind.

Zabel, a sprinter for the team Telekom, wore the green jersey, emblematic of the leader for top 10 finishes. He has been fourth, second, first and third in the first four stages.

The first week of the Tour is marked by flat stages, allowing the sprinters to dominate by picking up bonus seconds in fast finishes. The more demanding racing begins when the Tour hits the Pyrenees on July 14.

Sports Editors: Joseph Hoffman and Ori Lewis

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CRITICS' CHOICE

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The second secon Arrived Land A comment of the second Van de Har de de Section 19 Comments Carlotte Car

Careen of

ENTERTAINMENT HELEN KAYE Mike Mainteri and his quarter headline tonight's gigs at the Parliament Arts festival at the

Wohl Amphi in Hayarkon Park at 9:25 p.m., following their warm-up act, Esta. The free shows on the lakeside stage feature drummer Arale Kaminski at 11:30. Saturday is the big one - Isaac Hayes and his band at Wohl at 9 p.m.; the free shows feature Tom Regis and Takumu on the hakeside stage at 10:30. Rock, Love and the Dead Sea is the umbrella

nile for summer-long entertainment in the Northern Dead Sea area at Kibbutz Mitzpe Shalem Singer Yehudit Ravitz opens the series tomorrow in the amphitheater at 10:30 p.m. Dancing til dawn afterwards.

VIDEO

HELEN KAYE

The Tel Aviv Cinematheque is celebrating the Swinging Sixties with a series of music-video nights. The Pink Floyd concerts are first, from the 60s to the '90s. Three hours of it. Tonight in the big hall at 10.

ENGLISH THEATER

HELEN KAYE

Sex, bedrooms, more sex and laughs in another Robin Hawdon farce from the people who brought us Don't Dress for Dinner from London. This one's called The Mating Game and it's about a hotshot TV chat show host who just can't seem to get it together when it comes to Getting the Girl Stars Patrick Kearns and Sadie Nine. On Saturday at the Wix Auditorium, Rehovot, at 9 p.m.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AIZENSTADT

Zubin Mehta leads the IPO in the Mahler orchestral arrangement of Schubert's Death and the Maiden, and the premiere of Absalom by Israeli composer Leon Schidlowsky. In between Itzhak Periman plays the Bruch first violin concerto. Tonight (8:30), Friday (2) and Sunday (8:30) at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv.



Vibraphonist Mike Mainieri headlines the Parliament Arts festival.

Gan Chamber Choir in works by Bartok (Slovakian songs), Janacek (a cantata for harp, organ and choir) and Dvorak (Mass in D. Op. 86), Saturday (9) at the Tel Aviv Museum.

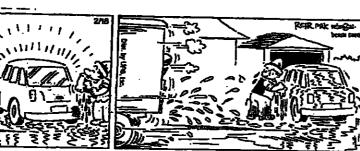
Bassoonist Alexander Fein, flutist Dimitri Kasiuk and pianist Luba Agranovsky play works by Weber, Saint-Saens, Mendelssohn and Quantz tomorrow (11 a.m.) at Jerusalem's Ticho House. Duo pianists Bracha Eden and Alexander Tamir play concerti for keyboard with the Jerusalem Artists Ensemble and violinist Moti Schmidt, Saturday (11 a.m.) at the Targ Center in Ein Kerem, Jerusalem.

Israeli vocal ensemble Musica Eterna, performing Russian choral music, sings music by Rachmaninoff, Tchaikovsky and other Russian composers, Saturday at the Dormition Abbey (8:30) in Jerusalem.

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

For cheap, predictable, slapstick humor, Itche is just the thing. This original comedy series stars Sefi Rivlin as an Argentinian middle-class bloke to whom strange things happen in everyday situations. In tonight's episode, at 8:30, the family Hanna Znr leads her always exhilarating Ramat moves apartments.



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Boarding establishments?

9 He puts a word in when required (8) 10 Lure one into a club (4)

11 Receives an order and assumes control (5,7)

18 Cathedral plans include religious education (8) 15 Quickly take a few notes, maybe (6)

16 It takes mostly hard work to make a tennis champion

17 Hearing noisy neighbour could be one (5) 18 Hear athlete is puffed (4)

20 Write down some music? Not a notel (6) 21 Did some relief work? (8)

23 He figures a great deal in population surveys (12) 26 The girl I get in the end (4)

27 Back number (8) 28 Not an odd tune for a church service (8)

DOWN

2 Wreck on a chart firmly fixed (2,6) 8 It's strictly true, but unimaginative (6-2-4)

4 Cupboard key (6) 5 Dad's embarked for health

resorts (4)

6 The loss in fuel is gigantic

7 Mount hotly tipped when it runs (4) 8 Old training manual (8)

12 Be deadly serious about usury (4,8) 14 Some music for a three-piece combination?

16 He's not alone in breaking

the law (8)

17 Worship money (8) 19 A time when the populace is at cross purposes? (8)

22 Game between two sides? 24 Opening commercial with

sex appeal (4) 25 Lazy and backward in fielding (4)

SOLUTIONS



Quick Solution ACROSS: I Chap, 5 Styr, 7 Lexison, 8 Patelet, 16 Wary, 12 Ryre, 14 Dendruff, 16 Oleander, 17 Pith, 18 Ryes, 19 Coincide, 22 Nemeric, 23 Ring, 24 Prow.

DOWN: 1 Clap, 2 Plot, 3 Excluded, 4 Scot, 5 Snewdrop, 8 X-ray, 9 Loyshy, 11 Refuted, 13 Hapsing, 15 Narcissi, 18 Ewer, 19 Came, 20 Cusp, 21 Enow.

QUICK CROSSWORD **ACROSS**

1 Hnaky (6) 4 Direct (5) 8 Staid (5) 9 Obvious (7) 10 Object (7) 11 Inactive (4) 12 Edge (3) 14 Gratis (4) 15 Genuine (4) 18 Entrap (3) 21 Always (4) 23 Unfriendly (7) 25 Cyclone (7) 26 Illustrious (5)

27 Fret (5)

28 Ally (6)

DOWN 1 Light cavalryman (6) 2 Umpire (7) 3 Wounded (8)

4 Slender (4) 5 Edit (5) 6 Decayed (6) ' 7 Gem (5) 16 Friendly (7) 17 Give (6)

13 Captive (8) 19 Pulsate (5) 20 Protect (6) 22 Mistake (5) 24 A lot (4)

E CHANNEL 1

8:30 News flash 6:31 News in Arabic 6:45 Exercise Time 7:00 Good Morning

■ EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Cartoons 10:00 Eric's World 10:30 My Life as a Dog 11:00 A Matter of Time 11:35 Hot Science 12:05 A.J., Time Traveller 13:00 Cartoons (rpt) 15:15 Gogo's Adventures with English

CHANNEL 1

15:00 Zappy Wave 15:33 X-Man 15:33 X-Man 15:50 Super Ben 16:00 Heartbreak High 16:45 Super Ben 16:59 A New Evening 17:34 Zappy Wave – Iive broadcast from Baransin Ra'anana 18:05 Super Ben 18:10 Time for Language 18:15 News in English ARABIC PROGRAMS 18:30 Meeting

19:00 News HEBREW PROGRAMS 19:30 News flash 19:31 Whoops! 20:00 News 20:45 House of Eliott 21:40 How I Stopped Worrying and Learned to Love Arik Sharon 22:45 Backtrack -Ehud Manor interviews Kobi Oshrat 23:30 News 00:00 Time for

E CHANNEL 2

Language

6:15 Today's Programs 6:30 Tricky - cartoon 7:00 Breakfast Magazine 9:00 Meetings 10:00 Pablo 10:30 The Jungle Book - cartoon 11:00 Monster League 11:30 Fudge 12:00 Tush Tush 13:00 Platfus 13:30 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air 14:00 Degrassi Junior

High 14:30 Tic Tac 15:00 The Best Israeli 16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful 17:00 Rafi Reshef 17:30 Open Cards 18:00 Almost Perfect 18:30 Hudson Street 19:00 Baywatch 20:00 News 20:00 News 20:00 News 21:45 Mermaids

(1990) - an uncon-ventional single mother arrives in a small town in New England. With Cher, Bob Ryder 00:00 News 00:05 Sexual Therapy

a frustrated young
 man and an unhappily
 married woman meet
 through a personals

JERUSALEM
G.G. Gil. Jerusalem Mail (Maiha) #
6788448 That Old Feeling-The Chamber
5,7:15, 945 - Wedding Bell Blues-Nutty
Professor 11:30 a.m., 1:30 - The
Stapids-The Saint-Beavis and Butt-head
11:30 a.m., 1:30, 5, 7:15, 9:45 - Killing Zoe
7:15, 9:45 - Space Jeen 11:30 a.m., 1:30, 5
The Adventures of Phrocchio (Hebrew dialogue) 11:30 a.m., 1:30, 5, 7:15, 9:45
JERUSALEM THEATER Charlie and
Louise 5, 7 - Anna Karenina 9:30 RAV
CHEN 1-7 # 6782799 Credit Card
Reservations # 6794477 Ray-Mecher
Buicing, 19 Hatoman St., Talpiot Hercules
(English dialogue) 7:30, 9:45 - Hercules
(Hebrew dialogue) 11 a.m., 1, 5 - Speed 2 5,
7:15, 9:45 - Alsoidae Powers-Con Air 7:30,
9:45 - Donnie Brasco 7:15, 9:45 - Citizen
Ruth 7:30, 9:45 - High School High 11 a.m.,
1, 5 - The English Patient 9:46 - Jungle 2
Jungle 11 a.m., 1:15, 5, 7:30 - That Durn
Cats-Atasia 11 a.m., 1, 5 - 101 Delmatiens
11 a.m., 5 - Return of the Jedf 11 a.m.,
MEVASSERET ZION G.G. Gill. #
5700868 List Lian-101 Datmatians
11:30
a.m., 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 SMADAR # 5618168

5700888 Liar Liat-101 Datmatians 11:30 a.m., 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 SMADAR = 5618188 Self-Made Hero 7:45 • Boom Generation

Dominis Brasco 3, 7:15, 2000 * Gapani Pater 5, 7:30, 9:45 * Sling Blade 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 - Absolute Power 5, 7:30, 9:45 G.G. TEL AVIV * 5281181 65 Pinster St. Lier Lier 5,

730, 10; 5, 7:30, 10 - The Saint 5, 7:30, 10; 7:30, 10 - The Charmber 5, 7:30, 10 TEL AVIV MUSEUM When the Cat's Away 5, 8, 10 - Chartie and Louise 11 a.m., 2

HAIFA CINEMA CAFÉ AMAMI = 8325755

CINEMA CAFÉ AMAMI = 8325755
Shine 9:30 - Breaking the Waves 6:45 Secrets and Lies 7 - Empire of the Senses
9:30 GLOBECTY = 6569900 Killing Zoe
7:15, 9:45 - The Adventures of Pinocchio
(Hebrew disloque) 11:30 a.m., 4:45, 7:15,
9:45 - That Old Feeling 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 The Nutty Professor 11:30 a.m., 4:45, 7:15
10 - Speco Jam 11:30 a.m., 4:45
MORIAH = 6843654 - Prisoner of the
Mountains 7:30 - Boom Generation 9:30
ORLY = 831868 The English Patient 6,
9:15 PANORIAMA Lier Lier 11 a.m., 1,
4:30, 7, 9:30 - Kolya 7:15, 9:30 - The

9:15 PANORAMA Lier Lier 11 a.m., 1, 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Kolya 7:15, 9:30 • The Adventures of Prinocchio (Hisbrew dielogue) 11 a.m., 1, 4:15, 6 • Arma Karenina 7, 9:30 • Spece Jem 11 a.m., 1, 4:30 RAM-GAT 1-2 ** 8574311 Speed 2 • Con Air 4:30, 7, 9:15 RAM-MOR 1-7 ** 8418988 Hercules (English dislogue) 7:15, 9:30 • Donnie Brasco-Absolute Power 7, 9:30 •

the Shelf

15:30 Holy Koran 15:35 French programs 16:05 The Curiosity

20:30 Documentary 21:70 Kung Fu 22:00 News in English 22:30 Feature film 00:00 Taratata

IR MIDDLE EAST TV

7:00 FV Shop 14:30 The 700 Ctub 15:00 Gerbert 15:30 Urban Peasant 16:00 Lamy King 17:45 Beakman's World 18:10 Perfect Strangers 18:35 Seved by the Bell 19:00 Showbiz 19:30 World News 19:30 World News

СШ 23:30 The 700 Club 00:00 Quantum Shopping

■ ITV 3 (33)

19:30 Doctors Talk 20:00 News 20:45 Telekassef 21:15 The First Circle 23:00 Urban Angel 23:30 International **Cultural News**

■ ETV 2 (23)

15:30 Burned Bridge 18:35 Hot Science (rpt) 17:10 A.J., Time Traveller (rpt) 18:00 Desirnos 18:30 Art Workshop 19:00 World War I 19:30 Vis à Vis 19:50 Helio Prina 20:00 A New Evening 20:30 Family Album 21:00 The Onedin Line 21:50 Montreal Jazz Festival 1996

22:50 l, Claudius (pt. 7)

■ FAMILY CHANNEL (3)

7:00 Good Evening 7:00 Good Evening with Guy Pines (rpt) 7:30 Love Story with Yossi Siyas (rpt) 8:00 Dallas (rpt) 9:00 One Life to Live 9:45 The Young and the Restless (rpt) 10:30 Days of Our Lives (rpt) 11:15 Zivensa (rpt) 11:15 Zingara (rpt)
12:00 Barnaby Jones
12:45 The Streets of
San Francisco

ad. With Helen Hunt, Jason Alexander and Antony Edwards 00:45 On the Edge of

■ JÓRDAN TV

Show 16:30 They Came From Outer Space 17:15 Varieties 18:10 French programs 19:00 News in French 19:30 News headlines 19:35 Parenthood 20:00 World Echo

Tonight 20:00 CNN News 20:30 One West Waldid 21:30 Two Fingers a lottery prize. With Assi Dayan 20:30 Radiant City (1995) (rpt) 22:00 The Stars Fell

CABLE

16:30 The World of Art 17:30 Panorama 18:00 Sea of Thoughts 19:00 News in Arabic

13:35 Wings 14:00 Dallas 14:50 Days of Our Lives 15:40 Xena, Warrior

20:55 The Commish 21:45 Renegade 22:30 Love Story with Yossi Siyas — with guest Avihu Medina 28:00 Seinfeld (rpt) 23:25 Babylon 5 (rpt) 00:15 The Streets of San Francisco 1:00 Blood Brothers 2:45 New York News 3:25 Brisco County 21:00 3:35 Brisco County M MOVIE CHANNEL (4) 21:30 11:30 Deadly Pursuits 22:00

16:30 Zingara

18:00 Pearl

the Restless 19:45 Sunset Beach 20:30 Lapidankner

17:15 One Life to Live

18:30 Local Broadcast 19:00 The Young and

20:55 The Commish

11:30 Deady Pursuit (1995) (rpt) 13:05 Seeing Stars 13:35 Unspealeable Acts (1990) (rpt) 15:35 Lakota Moon (1891) (rpt) 17:10 Clara's Heart (1988) (rpt) 19:05 Half Each (Hebreur 1071) (Hebrew, 1971) -Grossman is about to lose his business when providence comes in the shape of

From Shilon 22:30 Carnel Cornedy

E CHILDREN (6) 8:30 Certoons 9:05 Beverly Hills Teens 9:35 Dennis the Menace 10:05 Wishbone 10:40 Lois and Clark 11:30 Beverly Hills 11:30 Beverly Hills

12:15 Children's Olympics 12:40 Party of Five 13:30 Hallo Spencer 14:00 Return of Dogtanian 14:30 Beverly Hills Teens 15:00 Cartoon Movie 16:30 Children's

on Henrietta (1995) — a prospector in

Depression-era Texas convinces a cotton

tarmer that there is oil

under his land. With Robert Duvall

23:50 Four Weddings

and a Funeral (rpt)

Channel City
16:45 Magic School Bus
17:20 Stickin' Around
17:30 Twisted Tales of Felix 17:55 Phenom 18:30 Children's

Olympics 19:00 Surprise Garden 19:30 Fifteen 20:00 Animeniacs 20:20 Married with Children 20:50 Rosserine 21:20 The Cosby Show

21:45 Different World SECOND

SHOWING (6) 22:00 Dust (1985) - a lonely woman living on a remote South African ranch murders her father after he seduces his black servant's wife 23:35 Five Last Days (German, 1982) - two women come togeth-er in a Nazi prison cell

Cooking 7:30 E! TV 7:30 EI TV
8:00 The Wonder Years
8:30 Oprah Winfrey
9:30 Picket Fences
10:30 Santa Barbara
11:30 The Bold and
the Beautiful
12:00 Hindi shows
13:30 Lost in Space
14:30 Doogle Howser
15:00 The Wonder Years
15:30 Mollie Katzen's
Cooking

Tom Brokew

■ STAR PLUS

19:30 Baywatch
20:30 The Bold and
the Beautiful
21:00 Santa Barbara
22:00 Star News
22:30 Space: Above
and Beyond
23:30 Kawanagh Q.C.
1:30 Oprah Wintrey Melvyn Bragg and Norman Mailer discuss the artist

8:00 Europe A La Carte

6:30 The Ticket (rpt) 7:00 VIP 7:30 NBC Nightly News with Torn Brokaw 8:00 MSNBC News 9:00 Today 10:00 European 1:00 European 15:30 CNBC US Squawk Box 17:00 Gardening By the Yard

EUROSPORT 9:30 Athletics 11:00 Tour de France

Filteen On the Sunset Road Again Beach Animaniacs Wild Film Married with Children Lapidanime Radiant City Sex, Censorship and the Silver Screen Commish The Cosby Show louse of Renegade Different Culture World The Stars Dust Fett on Mailer on Picasso Love Story with Yossi Siyas Seinfeld (rpt) Geographic Television 20:00 The Ticket 20:30 VIP

E CHANNEL 8

19:30

20:00

20:30

22:30

23:00

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News flast

Whoops!

News

itche

Nows

House of

How I Stopped Worrying and Learned to Love Arik Sharon

Backtrack

Eliott

6:00 Open University 8:00 Wonders of 20:30 VIP
21:30 Dateline
22:00 Euro PGA Goff
23:00 The Tonight
Show with Jay Leno
00:00 Late Night with
Conen O'Brien
1:00 Later
1:30 NBC News with
Tom Brokaw Weather: Snow 8:30 On the Road Again, part 2 9:00 Wild Film: On een, Off Screen 9:30 The Fiery Angel

opera by Prokofiev
11:35 Sinfonietta, part

5 (mt) 12:15 Wonders of Weather: Deserts (rpt) 12:45 On the Road

6:30 Nine to Five 7:00 Mollie Katzen's Again (mt) 13:00 Wild Film: That's Life (rpt) Censorship and the Silver Screen (rpt) 14:30 House of 14:30 House of Culture (rpt) 15:15 Ringl and Pit (rpt) 16:15 Human Nature, part 3 (rpt) 17:00 Open University 19:05 Wonders of Weather Serve

Weather: Snow 19:35 On the Road Cooking 16:00 Hindi shows Again, part 2 20:05 Wild Film, part 10 18:30 Star News 19:00 Are You Being 20:35 Sax Censorship and the Served? 19:30 Baywatch Silver Screen, part 2 21:30 House of Culture 22:10 Mailer on Picasso – writers

23:10 Human Nature 23:55 Open University SUPER CHANNEL

E CHANNEL 5 6:30 Bodies in Motion 16:00 Bodies in Motion 16:30 The Survivors 17:00 Soccar: American 19:00 The Survivors 19:30 Ice Skating 20:30 "Adidas Street Ball live from em with Kareem Abdul Jaaber 22:30 Spanish

of Speed 23:30 Extreme Olympics

12:00 Tennis 16:00 Tour de France 18:15 Touring Car 19:15 Tractor Pulling 20:15 Sumo 20:15 Sumo 21:00 Aerobics 22:00 Boxing 23:00 Tour de France 00:00 Miss Finess USA 1:00 Sailing Magazine

STAR SPORTS

PRIME TIME

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7:30 Water Sports 8:30 Sports Unfirmited 9:30 Golf 10:30 Motorcycling 12:00 Chinese Soccer 14:00 Golf 14:30 Watersports 15:30 WWF Live Wire 17:30 Asian Soccer 19:30 To be announced 20:00 US PGA Tour

21:30 Chinese Soccer 22:00 WWF Live Wire

00:00 Watersports ■ BBC WORLD

News on the hour 7:30 The Sci Files (rpt) 8:00 Newsdesk 9:30 Hard Talk (rpt) 10:30 The Sci Files (rpt) 11:30 Film '97 (rpt) 12:30 Hard Talk (rpt) 13:30 Holiday (rpt) 14:00 Newsdesk 15:30 The Sci Files (rpt) 16:15 World Business

Report 16:30 Asia-Pacific Newshour 17:30 Top Gear (rpt) 18:30 Hard Talk with Tim Sebastian 19:30 Building Sights 20:00 The World Today 21:30 Hard Talk (rpt) 22:30 Panorama 23:30 Tornorrow's

World

23:00 Fabulous World of Speed 5:30 Pinnacie Report 7:30 Insight (rpt) 8:30 Moneyline (rpt) 9:30 World Soort 10:30 Showbiz Today 11:30 CNN Newsroom 12:30 World Report

13:30 American Edition 13:45 Q&A (rpt) 14:00 Asian News 14:30 World Sport (rpt) 15:00 Asian News 15:30 Business Asia 16:00 Larry King Live 17:30 World Sport (rpt) 18:30 Business Asia 19:30 Q&A with Riz Khan

20:45 American Edition 21:00 World Business Today 21:30 World Report (rpt)

23:00 European News 23:30 Insight 00:00 World Business Today Update 00:30 World Sport 1:00 World View

RADIO IN VOICE OF MUSIC

6:06 Morning Concert 9:05 Tchakovsky: Piano concerto no 1; Berlioz: Messe solonelle; Schubert: 6 Bruckner: Symphony no 3 12:00 Noon with Gideon Hod 14:06 Encore

15:00 Magazine 16:00 4 medieval songs on love and death; Bach: Tho sonata in E minor for organ BWV 528 (Koopman); Handel: 2 Duets; Beethoven: String quintet in C op 29; Barber, Souvenirs for plano; Stravinsky:

String quartet in A mino 18:00 New CDs -Beethoven; Massenet 20:05 From the Recording Studio -Haya Livni (violin), Herut Yisraeli (piano). Clara Schumann: 3 DROCAS On 22

21:30 Clouds,

MOVIES Speed 2 4:30, 7, 9:30 - Return of the Jedi 11 a.m. - Con Air 7, 9:30 - High School High 11 a.m., 1, 4:45, 7, 9:30 - The English Patient 9:15 - Jungle 2 Jungle 11 a.m., 1:15, 4:45, 7 - That Darn Cat-Hercules (Hebrew dialogue) 11 a.m., 1, 5 - 101 Datmadians 11 a.m., 4:45 - Alaske 11 a.m., 1:15, 4:45 (English dialogue) 7:15, 9:30 - Hercules (Hebrew dialogue) 11 a.m., 1, 5 - Absolute Power 7, 9:15 - Donnie Brasco 9:15 - That Darn Cat 11 a.m., 1, 4:45 - Jungle 2 Jungle 11 a.m., 4:45 - Alaske 11 a.m., 5, 7, 9:30 - Con Air 11 a.m., 4:45, 7, 9:30 - Jungle 2 Jungle 11 a.m., 4:45 - Aban

ARAD

Pinocchio (Fisherw disloque) 11:30 a.m., 5 - Neily and III. Armant 8:30

ARIEL.

Absolute Power 9

ASHDOD

G.G. Gill. = 8647202 Wedding Belt Blues 5, 7:30, 10 - Beavis and Butt-head-Space Jam 5, 7:30, 10 - Beavis and Butt-head-Space Jam 5, 7:30, 10 - G.G. GRI =71123 Llar Llar-The Stupids 11:30 a.m., 5, 7:30, 10 - Different for Girls 7:30, 10 - The Adventures of Pinocchio (Fisherw disloque) 11:30 a.m., 5 RAV CHEN =8661120 Speed 2 7:15, 8:45 - The English Patient 9:15 - Jungle 2 Jungle 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 6:45 - Con Air 7:30, 9:45 - Donnie Brasco 5, 7:15, 9:45 - Absolute Power 5, 7:30, 9:45 - Alaska-High School High 11 a.m., 5 - That Dam Cat 11 a.m., 5, 7:15 - Return of the Jedi 11 a.m.

ASHIKELON

G.G. Gil. = 729977 The Saspids—Liar Liar 11:30 a.m., 5, 7:30, 10 - The Nutry Professor 11:30 a.m. - Illarec Polo 5 - Space Jam 11:30 a.m., 5, 7:30 RAV CHEN High School High = 10 - The Adventures of Pinocchio (Fisherw disloque) 11:30 a.m., 5, 7:30 RAV CHEN High School High=Con Air 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 9:45 - Absolute Power 7:15, 9:45 - Jungle 2 Jungle 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 9:45 - Jungle 2 Jungle 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 9:45 - Alaska-The Adventures of Pinocchio (Fisherw disloque) 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 9:45 - Alaska-The Adventures of Pinocchio (Fisherw disloque) 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 9:45 - Alaska-The Adventures of Pinocchio (Fisherw disloque) 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 9:45 - Alaska-The Adventures of Pinocchio (Fisherw disloque) 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 9:45 - Alaska-The Adventures of Pinocchio (Fisherw disloque) 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 9:45 - Alaska-The Adventures of Pinocchio (Fisherw disloque) 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 9:45 - Alaska-The Adventures of Pinocchio (Fisherw disloque) 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 9:45 - Alaska-The Adventures of Pinocchio (Fisherw disloque) 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 9:45 - Alaska-The Adventures of Pinocchio (Fisherw disloque) 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 9:45 - Alaska-The Adventures of Pinocchio (Fisherw disloque) 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 9:45 - Alaska-The Adventures of Pinocchio (Fisherw disloque) 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 9:45 - Alaska-The Adventures of Pinocchio (Fisherw disloque) 11

a.m., 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 SMADAR = 5618168
Self-Made Hero 7:45 • Boom Generation
10 • Beautiful Thing 6
TEL AVIV
GAT Hamiet 4, 8:30 G.G. HOD 1-4 = 522226 Hod Passage, 101 Dizengot St.
The Stupids 11:30 a.m., 1:30, 5, 7:30, 10 • Killing Zoe 5, 7:30, 10 • Liar Liar 11:30 a.m., 1:30 • The Promise 10 • The Adventures of Pinocchio (Habrew (faiogue) 11:30 a.m., 1:30, 5, 7:30 • Beavis and Butt-head 7:30, 10 • Space Jam 11:30 a.m., 1:30, 5, LEV The English Patient 11:30 a.m., 1:30, 5, LEV The English Patient 11:30 a.m., 1:30, 5, LEV The English Patient 11:30 a.m., 1:30, 5, LEV The Housthale 12:000, 5, 8 • Boom Generation 2, 8, 10:15 • Secrets and Lles 11 a.m., 1:15, 7, 10 • Self-Made Hero 4, 10 • Prisoner of the Mourtains 2, 6 • Beautiful Thing 4 G.G., PE'ER That Old Feeling-Riddcule 7:30, 10 • The Adventures of Pinocchio (Habrew distogue) 11:30 a.m., 5, 7:30, 10 • Different for Garts 5, 7:30, 10 • Vertigo 7:15, 10 RAV-CHEN = 5:282288
Dizengot Center Speed 2:2:30, 5, 7:15, 9:45 • Hercules (Habrew distogue) 11:30 a.m., 1, 3, 5 • Hercules (Habrew distogue) 11:3 m., 1, 3, 5 • H

BEERS/ IEBA
G.G. Gil. #6440771 The Stupids 11:30
a.m., 5, 730, 10 - The Chamber 10 - The
Adventures of Pinocchio (Hebrew dielogue) 11:30 a.m., 5, 730 - The Saint 7:30,
10 - The Nutry Professor 11:30 a.m., 5 Breaking the Waves 8:30, 9:30 - Space
Jam 11:30 a.m., 445 G.G. ORI #6103111
Liar Liar-Different for Girls-Beavis and
Buit-head 5, 7:30, 10 RAV-NEGEV 1-4
#6235278 Speed 2-Donnie Brasco 7:15,
9:45 - Con Air-Hercules (English dialogue)
7:30, 9:46 - Hercules (Hebrew dialogue)
oi-ligh School High-Jungle 2
Jungle-Alaska 11 a.m., 5
EILAT

orligh School High-Lungle 2
Jungle-Alaska 11 a.m., 5
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EILAT CINEMA Speed 2 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 10 • Jungle 2 Jungle 11 a.m., 5 • Con Air 7:30, 10 • Two Days in the Valley 7:30, 10 • Officerent for Girts 7:30, 10 • The Adventures of Pinocchio (Hebrew dialogue) 11:30 a.m., 5 • The Stupids 11:30 a.m., 5, 7:30, 10 • The HADERA
LEV Speed 2 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 10 • The Speed 2 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 10 • The

English Patient 7, 9:45 • Lisr Lisr 11 a.m., 4:45, 7:45, 10 • Jungle 2 Jungle 11 a.m., 5, 7:30 • Con Air 11 a.m., 5, 10 HERZI VA COLONY #6902666 Donnie

COLONY #6902666 Donnie Brasco-Absolute Power 5:30, 7:45, 10 - 110 HOLDAY Different for Girls 8, 10 - 110 HOLDAY Different for Girls 8, 10 - 110 Adventures of Pinocchio (Fiebrew dislogue) 11:30 a.m., 5 STAR # 589068 Liar Liar 11 a.m., 1, 4, 6, 7:45, 10 - The Adventures of Pinocchio (Fiebrew dislogue) 11 a.m., 1, 4:15, 6 - Con Air 10 - Jungle 2 Jungle 11 a.m., 1, 8 - Speed 2 5, 7:30, 10

NESS ZANKA G.G. Gil. 1-4 # 404729 The Stupids-Liar Liar 11:30 a.m., 5, 7:30, 10 • Killing ZoewThat Old Feeling 7:30, 10 • Space JanuaThe Adventures of Pinocchio

Hebray districts of Pinocchio (Hebray district) 11:30 a.m., 5: NETANYA
G.G. Gill. 1-5 = 628452 Lier Lient-The Stupids 11:30 a.m., 5, 7:30, 10 - Space-Jame-The Adventures of Pinocchio (Hebray district) 11:30 a.m.

Liar Liar 11:30 a.m., 5, 7:30, 10 · Marco Polo 5, 7:30, 10 · Space Jam 11:30 a.m. - Beavis and Butthead 7:30, 10 PETAH TIKVA G.G. HECHAL Speed 2 5, 7:30, 10 · Con Ar5, 7:30, 10 · Absolute Power 5, 7:30, 10 · Liar Liar-The Stupids G.G. RAM 1-3 · 9340818 Breaking the Waves-Secrets and Lies-Shine 7:30 SIRKIN Crash - Everyone Says 1 Love You 7:30, 10 · Jungle 2 Jungle-The Nutty Professor 11:30 a.m., 1:30, 5 · Lier Liar-The Stupids 11:30 a.m., 1:30, 5, 7:30, 10 · Donnie Brasco 10 · Space Jam 11:30 a.m., 1:30, 5, 7:30 · The Adventures of Pirocchio (Hebrew dialogue) 11:30 a.m., 1:30, 5, 7:30 PARK Liar Liar-Speed 2 11 a.m., 1:30, 5, 7:30, 10 · High School High 11 a.m., 1:30, 5, 7:30 · Absolute Power 10 · Donnie Brasco 7:30, 10 · Con Ar 7:30, 10 · That Darn Cat 11 a.m., 1:30, 5 · The Adventures of Pirocchio (Hebrew dialogue) 11 a.m., 1:30, 5

High School High 11 a.m., 5
RISHON LEZION
GAL 1-5 = 9619869 Breaking the Waves
6:30, 9:30 - Secrets and Lies 7:15, 10 Wedding Bell Blues 7:30, 10 GIL 1-3
Different for Giris 7:30, 10 - Space Jam
11:30 a.m., 5 - Beavis and Buth-head 10 The Adventures of Pinocchio (Hebrew dialogue) 11:30 a.m., 5, 7:30 - Liar Liar 11:30
a.m., 5, 7:30, 10 - HAZAHAV The
Supids-Liar Liar 11:30 a.m., 1:30, 5, 7:30, 10 Kuling Zoo 7:30, 10 - Jungle 2 Jungle 11:30
a.m., 1:30, 5 - That Old Feeling 5, 7:30, 10 Kuling Zoo 7:30, 10 - Jungle 2 Jungle 11:30
a.m., 1:30, 5 - That Old Feeling 5, 7:30, 10 Space Jam 11:30 a.m., 1:300 RAV CHEN
Speed 25, 7:15, 9:45 - Dornie Brasco 9:45
- Con Air 7:30, 8:45 - High School High 11
a.m. - Hercules (Hobraw dialogue) -- Alestia
11 a.m., 1, 5 - Jungle 2 Jungle 11 a.m., 1:15,
5, 7:30 STAR Speed 2 11:30 a.m., 5, 7:36,
10 - High School High 11:30 a.m., 5, 7:36,
10 - High School High 11:30 a.m., 5, 7:36,
10 - Head Above Water 8:15, 10 - The
Adventures of Pinocchio (Hebrew dialogue) 11:30 a.m., 5, 6:30 - Different for
Girts 7:45, 10 - Homeward Bound II 11:30
a.m., 5
YEHUD

Gins (745, 10)
2.III, 5
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3.III, 9:45 - Con
Air 7:30, 9:45 - Dormie Brasco 7:15, 9:45 Jungle 2 Jungle 11 a.m., 5, 7:30 - The
English Patient 9:45 - 101
Datmatians-That Dam Cale-High School

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17:30 Awesome interiors

18:00 The Site 19:00 National

LOD STAR #9246823 Con Air 11 a.m., 5, 7:45, 10 - High School High-Head Above Water 7:45, 10 - The Adventures of Pinocchio (Hebrew dialogue) w101 Delmations 11

(Hebrew dialogue) e-101 Delimetiens 11
a.m. 5
A.M.HARIYA
HEICHAL HATARBUT The English
Petient 8:30
UPPER NAZARETH
G.G GIL Different Girlo-Beavis and Buttheed 7. 9:30 • Space Jam 11:30 a.m., 4:30 The Nutry Professor 11:30 a.m., 4:30 The Nutry Professor 11:30 a.m., 4:30, 7
Nessor 11:30 a.m., 4:30, 7
Nessor 11:30 a.m., 4:30, 7
Nessor 11:30 a.m., 4:30, 7
NESS ZIONA
G.G. GIL 1-4 v 4/14/79 The Stunkte-Lier

7:30 • Hercules (Hebrew dialogue) •• Alaska
•• That Darn Cat 11 a.m., 1, 5

OR AKIVA

RAV CHEN = 6262758 Speed 2 7, 9:30 •

con Air 11 a.m., 4945, 9:30 • Liar Liar 11

a.m., 5, 7, 9:30 • Jungle 2 Jungle 7:15

OR YEHUDA

G.G. Gill 1-4 Secrets and Lies 7:15, 10 •

The Atheron was of Phonochio (Hebrew cir-

logue) 11 a.m., 1, 4:15, 6 · Con Air 10 Jungle 2 Jungle 11 a.m., 1, 8 · Speed 2 5,
7:30, 10
HOD HASHARON
GIL The Stapkis-Lier Lier 11:30 a.m., 5,
7:30, 10 · Ridicule 10 · The Adventures of
Pinocchio (Fishrew dialogue) 11:30 a.m., 5,
7:30 · Speed 2 11:30 a.m., 5, 7:30, 10
KARMIEL
CINEMA The English Patient 9:15 ·
Speed 2 7, 9:30 · Con Air 11 a.m., 4:30, 7,
9:30 · Jungle 2 Jungle 11 a.m., 4:45, 7 ·
High School High 11 a.m., 4:45
KFAR SAVA
G.G. Gil. #7677370 Lier Lier-Con
Air-The Stupid Speed 2 11:30 a.m., 1:30,
5, 7:30, 10 · That Old Feelings-Beavis and
Buth-head «Killing Zoe 7:30, 10 · The
Adventures of Pinocchio (Habraw dialogue) solurigis 2 Jungle-Speec Jam 11:30
a.m., 1:30, 5
KIRYAT BIALIK
G.G. Gil. Lier Lier-That Old
Feeling-Absolute Power 11 a.m., 5, 7:15, 9:45 ·
The Adventures of Pinocchio (Habraw dialogue) 11 a.m., 5 · Beavis and Butth-head 5,
7:15 · The Chamber 9:45 · The
Salati-Killing Zoe 7:15, 9:45 · The
Salati-Killing Zoe 7:15, 9:45 · The
Salati-Killing Zoe 7:15, 9:45 · The English
Patient 7, 9:30 · 101 Dalmetiants 11 a.m., 5,
7:15, 9:45 · Speece Jam 11:30 a.m., 4:30
LOD
STAR #9246823 Con Air 11 a.m., 5, 7:45,

**AAR #9246823 Con Air 11 a.m., 5, 7:45,
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**AAR #9246823 Con Air 11 a.m., 5, 7:45

JameThe Adventures of Pinocchio (Hebrew dialogue) 11:30 a.m., 5 • That old Feeling 5, 7:30, 10 • The Nutty Professor 11:30 a.m. RAV C+HEN = 8618570 Speed 2 7:15, 9:45 • Hercules (English dialogue) 7:30, 9:45 • Donnie Brasco 9:45 • Jungle 2 Jungle 11 a.m., 1, 5, 7:30 • Hercules (Hebrew dialogue) • Alaska • That Darn Cat 11 a.m., 1, 5

The Adventures of Pinocchio (Hebrew dialogue) The Nutty Professor 11:30 a.m., 5

INTERNATIONAL Yardena Alutin:

Sonata (1960); Amy Beach: Lullaby; Rahel Galin: Variations on 12; Vardina Shlonsky:

Celebrations and Sirens 23:00 Art of the Song

Processo (Harrew dialogue) 11 a.m., 1:30, 5
RAMAT GAN
RAV-GAN 1-4 = 6197121 Absolute
Power 7:15, 9:45 - The English Patient 9:45
- Donnie Bresco 9:45 - 101 Delmatians 3, 7:30 - Hercules (Fubbrew dialogue) 11 a.m., 1:3, 5 - Hungle 2, lungle 11 a.m., 1:15, 5, 7:30 - Thet Darn Cat 11 a.m., 1; 5 - Alastia 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5:15 RAV-OASIS 1-3 = 673087
Speed 2.5, 7:15, 9:45 - Liar Liar 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 9:45 - Con Air 7:30, 9:45 - The Advantures of Pinocehio (Habrew dialogue) 11 a.m., 5 - 101 Delmatians 11 a.m.
RAMAT HASHARON
KOKHAV Kolye 7:30, 9:45 - Jane Eyre
5:15

REHOVOT
CHEN Hamlet 4, 8:15 • Ridicule 9:45 •
Honeward Bound II 11 a.m., 5 • Breaking the Waves 7, 9:45 • Different for Girls 9:45 • Chartle and Louise 11 a.m., 5 • 7:30 RAV
MOR The English Petient 9:30 • Hercules (English dialogue) 7:30, 9:45 • Speed 2 7:15, 9:45 • Liar Liar, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Donnie Brasco 7:15, 9:45 • Con Air 7:30, 9:45 • Jungle 2 Jungle 11 a.m., 5, 7:15 • The Adventures of Pinocchilo-oThat Dam Call-Hercules (Fighrew dialogue) 11 a.m., 5 • Figh School High 12 a.m., 5 • Figh School High 12 a.m., 5 • Figh School High 13 a.m., 5 • Figh School High 14 a.m., 5 • Figh School High 15 • Figh School High 16 • Figh School High 16 • Figh School High 17 a.m., 5 • Figh School High 16 • Figh School High 16 • Figh School High 17 a.m., 5 • Figh School High 18 • Figh School

All times are p.m. unless otherwise indi-

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Jerusalem 16-27

Supreme Court acquits Abeid of Kikos murder, upholds rape charge

By BATSHEVA TSUR

The Supreme Court, by a majority vote, yesterday overturned the conviction of Suleiman Abeid for the 1993 murder of Henit Kikos but upheld his conviction for raping the teenager.

This left open the question of who actually murdered Kikos, whose remains were found only in June 1995. Abeid, who was present in the courtroom, is currently serving a life term for murder.

The three-man bench was divided: Deputy Court President Shlomo Levin found Abeid guilty of the rape and the murder, Justice Eliezer Goldberg ruled that Abeid was innocent on both counts, saying there was insufficient evidence to convict him; while Justice Ya'acov Kedmi ruled he was guilty of rape but noted that the body had been found in a different place from that which the accused indicated and therefore he had not committed the murder.

The court ordered the case returned to the Beersheba District Court, which originally tried Abeid, for the handing down of the sentence on the rape charge.

Seventeen-year-old Kikos went missing in June 1993, while hitchhiking from her Ofakim home to Beersheba, where she planned to attend her boyfriend's birthday

After weeks of searching failed to reveal her whereabouts, police were given a tipoff that Abeid, who

worked at the Dudaim garbage dump in Beersheba, was the murderer. He confessed to both charges, saying that the rape and murder had taken place at Dudaim. He later retracted his confession.

He was convicted on both counts in November 1994.

Repeated searches at Dudaim, however, failed to reveal traces of the body. Only in June 1995 were Kikos's remains uncovered - in a residential neighborhood of Beersheba.

In September 1995, the Supreme Court ordered that Abeid be tried again, because her remains were not found in the place where Abeid had said he hid the body.

In February 1996, the Beersheba District Court once again convicted Abeid for the murder and rape of Kikos. Abeid again appealed the decision

"There were no reason to charge my father, no reason... It's clear that the same person who murdered Henit first raped her. You can't divide the charges between two people," Abeid's daughter, Man'el, told Educational TV.

"This is an unacceptable situation; the court was simply not able to come out unequivocally and say that an innocent man had been convicted," lawyer Avigdor Feldman, who represented the appellant, said after the ruling. How can the court say that one person raped Henit Kikos and dumped her in one place and then someone else came by and mur-



Suleiman Abeid awaits the outcome of his appeal at the Supreme Court in Jerusalem yesterday.

dered her somewhere else? That is an imaginary situation and Justice Kedmi has made a mistake."

pressure to admit to carrying out the crime since he "has a low IQ." Feldman added he would lodge

Court with regard to the charges of rape against his client. Rafi Kikos, Henit's father,

decision yesterday, telling Israel Radio it was unfathomable that Abeid could have raped his daugh-

Driver of Dizengoff Center suicide bomber gets 30 years

The Nazareth District Court yesterday sentenced Said bin Hussein Suleimani to 30 years imprisonment for driving the Dizengoff Center suicide bomber from Gaza to downtown Tel Aviv on March 4 last year.

Suleimani, 46, from the village of Manshie Zedba in the Jezreel Valley, smuggled Ramez bin Kader Mohammed Abed in his truck to the shopping center, where the terrorist blew himself up, killing 13 and wounding 113. Suleimani was convicted on all charges, including being an accessory to murder, an accessory to a terrorist

act, and entering Israel illegally. Suleimani claimed that although he did smuggle the Abed into Israel, he thought he was a student at Bir Zeit University and did not know he was a terrorist.

But Justices Yehuda Abramovich, Gideon Ginat and Mordechai Hass stated that the accused, who makes a Supreme Court.

living from transporting scrap, between Gaza and Israel, should have been alerted to trouble by several

They noted that when the terrorist arrived at the truck. the accused lifted his bag and commented on its weight, about 12 kg. He was paid a large amount of money -\$1,100 - for the smuggling service, they added. Moreover, the terrorist asked him to alter his route to Tel Aviv instead of Bir Zeit.

The judges said these and other factors "indicate the accused knew he was smuggling in a terrorist into crowded, lively Tel Aviv to commit an act of terror."

Suleimani told reporters, "I am innocent. I made a mistake in taking that person. I thought he was a student."

His lawyer said he would appeal the conviction to the

No funding for Judea and Samaria road repairs since '95

70% of accidents caused by road conditions

By DAVID HARRIS

The condition of roads in Judea and Samaria is putting lives at risk, according to Public Works Department (PWD) director Ben-Zion Salman, who yesterday told Knesset Economics Committee there has been no funding for repairs in two years.

As a result of the discussion, chairman Elie Goldschmidt (Labor) demanded the new finance minister and minister immediately transfer NIS 80 million from budgetary reserves for repair work and agree on an annual budget for road works.

"This is not about politics; risk," said Goldschmidt, "We can't wait until 1998 [for fund-

The Foreign ministry is

fighting Arab lies about

Israel by bringing them to

the attention of the interna-

tional community, Foreign

Minister David Levy told the

Knesset plenum last week.

He was answering a parlia-mentary question by MK Benny Elon (Moledet),

based on a report in The

Jerusalem Post.
The March 17 news item

noted that the Palestinian

Authority's Nabil Ramlawi,

at a UN human rights con-

vention in Geneva, accused

Israel of having "infected by injection 300 Palestinian

children with the HIV virus

appeared in January in the

Egyptian daily Al Ahram,

although it was later retract-

during the years of the Foreign Minister David Levy.
intifada." The same charge (Efraim Kilshook)

Some 70 percent of all road traffic accidents in the areas are because of the road conditions, said Transport Ministry representative Nahum Gabbai. Last year, there were 483 accidents in Judea and Samaria, 38 causing fatalities, 117 serious injuries and the

remainder light injuries. "There are very serious problems," said Gabbai.

Since 1967, the Civilian Administration had been responsible, for the management of the 1,500 kilometers of roads in the territories. However, in September 1995, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin transferred the

responsibility for repairs to the PWD, with the administration management.

Since then, no funding has been transferred to the PWD, and

Foreign Ministry fights 'blood libel'

consequently the roads have not been maintained other than in emergency circumstances. In order to do this the PWD has removed NIS 1.5m. from its budget for a three-month period.

It would take a minimum NIS 50m. to carry out the most urgent repairs, according to Salman, and a further NIS 30m. to bring the roads up to a reasonable stan-

"If the work is not done now, it will be far more expensive in the future," said Salman.

Zvi Hendel (NRP) demanded full responsibility be transferred to the PWD. "At the moment no one is responsible for the roads," he said. The blame lies with the Treasury, which has failed to pass on funds, according to Abdul Malik Dahamshe (United Arab List).

"Unfortunately, certain

elements continue to exploit

this false propaganda," said

He said the Israeli repre-

sentative at the human

rights commission, Yosef

Lamdan, had vehemently

denied and condemned the

charges at the time. Levy

also noted that the UN sec-

retary general publicly dis-

associated himself from the

'We all know the blood

libel here is senseless, but it

must be answered to," said

Levy. "We are on guard

everywhere, and there is

sometimes a struggle

against the distortions and

even blood libels like this

which we bring to the atten-

tion of the international

statements and

Ramlawi to order.

ed and the paper admitted it authorities. We won't give

AROUND THE WORLD

Winning cards

The winning cards in yester-day's first Chance draw were the king of spades, ace of hearts, eight of diamonds and 10 of clubs.

The results of the second draw were the seven of spades, eight of hearts, ace of diamonds and eight

Bezek denies cheating and tricking callers

By JUDY SIEGEL

Bezeg International (BI) yesterday expressed "shock" over Communications Ministry charges "shock" over that the company had "cheated and tricked" callers by continuing to charge high overseas rates for those who hadn't "pre-registered."

The ministry, however, continued to criticize BI's behavior, saying it was investigating ways of taking action against the former monopoly. It was also looking into the possibility of requiring Bezeq International to return money charged "under false pretenses," although it conceded that this would be difficult.

Unlike its new competitors, Barak and Golden Lines, BI was discovered to be still charging high rates for calls placed by dialling 00 or 014. Only those customers who had made a one-time call to Bezeq's 188 or BI's toll-free number 177-022-1300. giving their name and identity-card number, enjoy the cheaper rates.

Bezeq International claims explained this in its ads, but the mine istry disputes this, saying this condition was "never made clear and vio lates the law."

The company says it established the registration procedure "with the min istry's knowledge in advance to produce a database of clients for our information," and to "simplify billing. which will be done not according to phone number, of which there may be several, but rather by family name and identity card number."

The telecommunications company insists that callers need not commit themselves to become long-term subscribers in order to enjoy the reduced rates.

Ministry spokeswoman Ayala Bar said it was objectionable that BI uses 188 - the overseas phone operator number run by its mother company Bezeq - to collect information on potential customers.

Researchers warn against changing status quo on Temple Mount

was completely false.

The government is coming under growing pressure from rabbis to allow Jews to pray on the Temple Mount, but giving in to such demands could trigger violence and a longterm Mideast crisis, a think tank said yesterday.

"The Temple Mount is the most important, most problematic and most dangerous factor in the national-religious conflict between the Jews and Moslems and the Israelis and the Palestinians," Ifrach Zilberman, a researcher at the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies, told a news confer-

ence yesterday. "The fear of losing Israeli sovereignty over the Temple Mount as a result of an agreeand the Palestinians is leading to political pressures to allow Jews to pray on the Temple Mount," said Amnon Ramon of the Jerusalem Institute.

Ramon said 93 percent of Israelis think the Temple Mount is important, 86 per-cent want to be able to worship there and 70 percent oppose formalizing the Islamic Trust's status at the

In a recent ruling, 60 rabbis affiliated with Jewish settlers said Jews should visit the Temple Mount. The decision is in contrast to rulings by the chief rabbis who have said Jews should not enter the Temple Mount for fear they might inadvertently desecrate ment between Israel, Jordan a holy area limited to those

Zilberman urged the Israeli government to stem any attempts to change the status

the Temple Mount...will certainly spill over into all Israeli-Palestinian relations and create a deep and longterm crisis," Zilberman said Even perceived changes in the religiously charged compound have previously led to vio-

lence. Zilberman said Israel should step up cooperation with the Palestinians and the Moslem world and reinforce security to prevent fanatics from either side from carrying out acts that could inflame the situa-

Boy killed when **ATV** overturns

A 12-year-old boy was killed yesterday when the ATV he was "A violent confrontation on riding with his cousin overturned. Shai Kashani, 12, was driving the family's recreation vehicle in the fields near his home at Moshav Shakaf, near Kiryat Gat, with his cousin, also 12. Police said the boys were riding at high speed when the accident occurred and attempts by Magen David Adom paramedics to resuscitate Shall failed. His consin was injured

A relative said that the children on the moshav had been warned repeatedly to be careful when riding the ATVs. "We knew it would end in disaster some time, and now it has,"



NOTICE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A POLICY INFORMATION CENTER

Notice is hereby given that Assicurazioni Generali S.p.A. has established an Information Center to provide information on policies issued by Generali Branches in Central and East European countries to, or in favor of persons who perished in the Holocaust, to the extent that such information is available to Generali in its archive in Trieste.

It should be noted that the information available to Generali relates to policies issued by Generali branches in the respective countries sixty, seventy years ago and more. Generall holds, in its Head Office in Trieste, the first pages only of those policies, which were sent to it by the branches upon the issue of the policies. Generali does not have any information as to the status of the insurance coverages under those policies during the period following the issue thereof since all policies and all records relating thereto were kept in the branches, of which Generali was ousted immediately after World War IL

The information in Generali's archive is unindexed and Generali is not in a position to determine that the first pages which it does have in Trieste exhaustively reflect all policies issued by its branches in Central and East European countries before World War II.

To facilitate a search for names and information available in Trieste, Generali is in the process of computerizing the data available to it in Trieste.

Information request forms will be ready for distribution as of July 15, 1997. Requests for such forms should be addressed to the Generali Policy Information Center, at one of the following addresses:

Generali Policy Information Center Segreteria Centrale Piazza Duca degli Abruzzi 2 Trieste 34132, Italy Fax No. 0039-40-671006

Generali Policy Information Center P.O. Box 20310 Tel-Aviv 61202, Israel

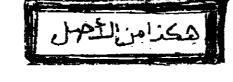
Additional addresses for the United States and Europe will be published in a few days.

The computerization of data in Generali's archive in Trieste may take several months, and Generali will respond to inquiries as soon as possible.

Please note that since the expropriation of its properties and branches in East and Central Europe after World War II, Generali is not obligated under the policies issued in those countries. The policies and the assets related to them were all subject to the local laws. The policies and the reserves underlying them became the responsibility of the states or state-owned entities that took them over.

Generali is setting up a fund in the amount of US\$ 12,000,000, to be applied over a period of twelve years, inter alia, for ex gratia payments to beneficiariea under such policies, and their legal successors, in accordance with priorities and criteria to be determined by a Committee - headed by a retired Justice of the Supreme Court of Israel-to be appointed by the Chairmen of the Finance Committee, the Insurance sub-Committee, the Committee for the Restitution of Jewish Property, of the Knesset and Migdal Insurance Company Ltd. The procedures for applications to the Committee will be published by the Committee, once it begins functioning.

The setting up of the information Center and the establishment of the Fund should not be taken as a recognition by Generali of an obligation to pay any amounts under policies issued by its Branches in Central and Eastern Europe before World War II.



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